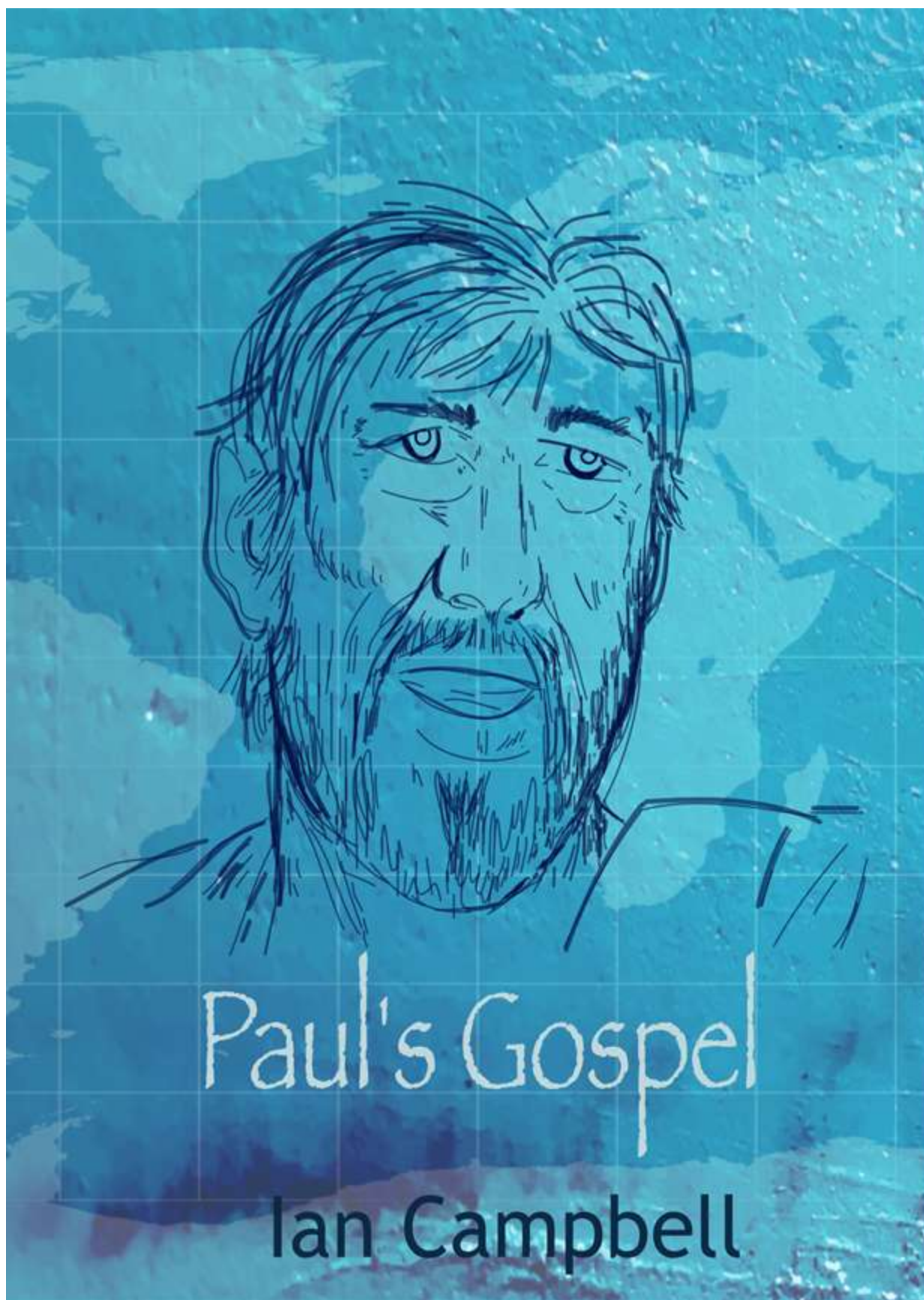




PAUL'S GOSPEL

Gal. 1:11, 12 But I certify you brethren that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, *but by revelation from Jesus Christ.*

Rom. 2:16 ... *according to my gospel*, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

Rom. 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you *according to my gospel* and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,

2 Tim. 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, *according to my gospel*,

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Prologue – Why Paul’s Gospel? Why not Jesus’ Gospel?

Jesus lived under the Law. Jesus could not preach anything contrary to the Law. In order to be a sinless sacrifice, He had to live a completely sinless life, in terms of the Law! It was only after the Jews rejected Jesus; after He was crucified, buried and rose again that the Church could come into being!

So, Jesus gave Paul the Gospel for the Church!

Gal. 1:11, 12 But I certify you brethren that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by revelation from Jesus Christ.

Three times, Paul calls the Gospel “my Gospel”.

Rom. 2:16 ... according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

Rom. 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,

2 Tim. 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel,

2 Ths. 2:14 Wherefore He called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now there is an enormous amount of confusion about Paul’s gospel in the world today, yet it is incumbent upon us to know what Paul’s Gospel is! Why? Because the Holy Spirit, through Paul, breathed a double curse on anyone who adulterated Paul’s gospel!

Gal. 1:8 - 9 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! **9** As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! (In the Greek, these are commands, not suggestions.)

Jesus said that if anyone says to another that he is a fool, he is in danger of hell fire! Yet Paul calls the Galatians “fools”.

Gal. 3:1 O foolish Galatians, ...

Obviously, there is something very serious here. In Paul’s letters to the churches, from Romans to Colossians, he calls the believers Saints, except for the Galatians!!!

Why? The Galatians had received Judaisers in their midst, Jews who insisted that it was necessary to keep the Law of Moses in order to be saved and in order to live a victorious life. Also, the Galatians had accepted their teaching as truth. Paul said to them that if they circumcised themselves, Christ would be of no avail to them; they had fallen from grace. According to Hebrews chapter 6 and chapter 10, this is the only way that a Christian who is baptised can be eternally lost. So it is indeed a very serious matter.

There are differences between what Jesus preached and what Paul preached. Here is an example: -

Mat. 6:12 ... forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Luk. 6:37 Judge not, and you shall not be judged: condemn not, and you shall not be condemned: forgive, and you shall be forgiven:

In other words, Jesus is saying that we will be forgiven only when we have forgiven!!! The word indebted means those who have sinned against us. Do you want God to forgive you only when you have completely, from the bottom of your heart, forgiven all who have hurt you or offended you? I know that I don’t. In the past, I have sometimes struggled for a long time to forgive in that way.

Paul says the opposite: -

Eph. 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

So, who is right? Both, obviously! In terms of the Old Testament you were required to forgive in order to be forgiven. Yet in terms of the New Testament, you have been forgiven for all your sins, past, present and future and that is why

God expects us to forgive. So, we must be careful how we apply the Word of God. We must rightly divide the Word!

Everything that is written in this little booklet I personally received by revelation from the Lord over a period of many years. That by itself does not qualify it as the truth. What I did was to go back to the Church to verify whether or not the revelation was the truth. In Peter we read: -

2 Pet. 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation!

What do I mean by verifying a revelation with the Church? Over the last two thousand years the Lord has revealed many things to many of His servants. If we check many commentaries, we should find what the Lord has revealed to the Church. Now, that does not mean that all commentaries have all the truth. We have to search. Commentaries often disagree with one another.

Seek and you will find! ☺

Note: Appendix 1 is an almost word for word quotation from that great book on Romans: - Romans Verse by Verse, by William R. Newell

Suggested Readings: -

1. Romans Chapters 1 – 8
2. Galatians – The Whole Book
3. Romans Verse by Verse, by William R. Newell
4. The Key to Everything, by Norman Grubb
5. Christ in Us, by Norman Grubb
6. Infinite Supply, by Norman Grubb
7. Continuous Revival, by Norman Grubb
8. Destined to Reign by Joseph Price
9. The Righteousness of God by Joseph Prince

All these books, except the last two, may be down loaded free from the Internet.

A word of caution, or probably encouragement before we begin. In the Old Testament, the Israelites were required to do what was written. They failed horribly. **1 Cor. 15:56** says, "... the power of sin is the Law. In **Rom. 5:20** it

says, “The Law came in so that sin would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.” Now a religious person, one who is like the Pharisees, will say, “See, there was grace not to sin.” Well, there is no one in the Old Testament who received grace from God not to sin. Grace was the fact that people were not subjected to the punishment of the Law! King David should have been stoned to death twice! Moses sinned so grievously that he was not allowed to enter the Promised Land!

What am I saying? In the New Testament, we are required to believe what is written about us! When we truly believe what is written about us, the works or deeds that God requires us to do will happen in our lives spontaneously! The fruit of the Spirit will be as natural as breathing, but not before!

Here is a personal testimony. After I was saved, I attended an Assembly of God church. In this church they said that if you didn’t have a quiet time with the Lord in the morning, you weren’t really saved. In other words, it was an unspoken law.

Well, this poor soul found it impossible!!! I could keep it up for a month; on one occasion I think it was three months. However, I always crashed with a vengeance.

After thirteen years, after I had been a missionary in a Middle Eastern country for about two years, I finally gave up trying. One night I said to God, “I abdicate all responsibility for getting up early in the morning to spend time with You. From now on it is Your responsibility to get me up early to spend time with You.” Well, well. The next morning, I was up at 02:45. From that time on I have had no problem getting up early to spend time with the Lord in the mornings. Over time, I found that my responsibility is to get to bed at a reasonable hour.

So, everything that I share in this booklet is based on this very principal. Now God gets the glory for getting me up. I have nothing to boast of!!!

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Chapter 1 - The Message of Reconciliation (2 Cor 5:17 – 21)

We cannot begin at the beginning, so I am going to begin halfway through. ☺

The Bible defines its own words. This is one of the primary reasons that we can almost never understand a given scripture unless we know what the whole Bible says, or unless we investigate the meaning of a specific word in the Bible. God wrote the Bible in such a way that it would outrageously offend the mind of man. Only if we approach the Bible in humility will we ever understand what it says.

In Israel, one of the most difficult things to convince an Israeli of is the virgin birth of the Messiah. Let us see why!

Isa 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Now this word virgin (almah) in the Hebrew does not technically mean virgin but means a young woman. The technical word for virgin is bethulah. So, does this mean that Mary was not a virgin? Of course not!!! Rabbis, who are in any way honest, do admit that the Messiah will be born of a virgin, even if they refuse to say so explicitly.

When we examine the Bible, we see that the word almah appears seven times. Except for the prophecy in Isaiah 7, every other instance refers to a young woman who has never known a man, that is a true virgin!

However, the word bethulah refers to a young woman also, usually a virgin (The Lexicons state that bethulah has only one

meaning, namely a virgin), but in one instance it is very clear that the young woman has definitely been with a man! So, if we were to use the usual word for a virgin, namely bethulah, for Mary there would be doubt that she was a virgin.

The use of the word almah, as it is defined in the Bible, says that Mary was definitely a virgin. No doubt!!!

So, we must be very careful when we read the Bible. It defines its own words. One instance of this is the word “World”.

In **Rom. 11:12 – 15** we read “Now if the transgression [of the Jews] is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfilment be! 15 For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

We see here that the rejection of the Jews resulted in riches for the World, riches for the Gentiles and the reconciliation of the World to God.

So, what happened when God rejected the Jews? Firstly, and most importantly, the Church was born! However, this was not all. “Civilization” (primarily in the Christian countries) is based on the Old and the New Testament. Now civilization has benefited even those countries which are not “civilized”. Most civilized countries have their constitutions based on principles drawn from the Scriptures.

So, when we see the word “World”, it means precisely that; the “World”.

We are now ready to look at the message of reconciliation that each one of us has been given by God our Father.

2 Cor. 5:18 God [has] reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

We see here that each and every one of us, as born again believers, has been given the ministry of reconciliation. In other words, we are to share with people (the unsaved) the message of reconciliation!

I can almost guarantee that you do not know what the message of reconciliation is! I have asked this question of myriads of people and in many, many forums and have never received an answer, never mind the right answer!

However, Paul does not leave us in the dark. In the very next verse he tells us what the ministry of reconciliation is!

2 Cor. 5:19 namely, that God was

1. in Christ
2. reconciling the “World” to Himself,
3. not counting their sins against them, and
4. He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

So, in Christ, God reconciled the “Whole World” to Himself and He does not count the “World's” sins against them. In other words, when God looks at a man, He does not see his sin because of Jesus’ finished work on the cross.

You may say that this cannot be. However let us look at the first letter of John (not the gospel).

1 Jhn. 2:2 He Himself [Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Jhn. 1:29 The next day he [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Jhn. 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Jhn. 3:17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Now we know that the whole world will not be saved, but it is God's will that all men may be saved.

1 Tim. 2:4 [God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

So, what do we tell people? What is the word of reconciliation that has been given to us?

Namely, that God loved them so much that He sent His only begotten Son; His Son that He loved passionately, not only to die for them but also to become sin on their behalf so that they may be called the righteousness of God. ***We are to tell them that God does not count any of their sins against them!***

However, He requires one thing from them in order for them to be saved (from eternal damnation)! There is one way and one way only to be saved, according to the scriptures. Now we know that it is God's will for every man to be saved (and woman also of course - 😊). So, He is not a stickler for the correct formula; but if we do things God's way, it always goes much better and is much easier.

Rom. 10:9 - 13 [I]f you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10** for with the heart a person

believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Vs. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be disappointed. **12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; **13** for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Nowhere in the scripture does it say that you have to repent of your sins and invite Jesus into your heart. Search the scriptures for yourself and see. (However, if we do, God will still honour our prayer.)

Now, this issue is of vital importance for us if we are to live the abundant life Jesus came to give us. **God does not & never will count any of your sins against you**

Now some people say that Peter on the day of Pentecost said that the people must repent, be baptized and then they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is taking a scripture out of context! What was Peter's sermon? Was it about sins? No, no way! Peter accused them of killing, murdering, the Christ! They were to repent of rejecting and killing the Messiah!!!

There is a passage from the Old Testament that confirms what we are saying here. When the Israelites came to the border of Canaan, after forty years of rebellion against God and against His servant Moses, God said of them: -

Num. 23:21 [God] has not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither has He seen perverseness in Israel:

Is God then a liar? How can He say this after He had sent in snakes among them, which bit them and many died; the ground also opened up and swallowed many up. The answer

is the Day of Atonement! Two goats were selected. Lots were cast. One, the goat to which the lot fell, was sacrificed. The other goat was taken into the wilderness (desert) and let go, a symbol of Israel's sins being taken away.

So, we conclude from this scripture that not only the sins of the past year were taken away (actually only covered), but also the sins of the coming year. If this was not so, the very next day after the Day of Atonement the Israelites could only have been regarded as sinners.

Praise the Lord. \o/\o/\o/\o/\o/\o/\o/\o/\o/\

So, we truly have Good News to share with people. We do not have to go to them and tell them that they are sinners. We can go and tell them: -

God loved you so much that He forgave you of all your sins, present past and future in order for God to have a relationship with you;

This does not sound fair!!! Why, Hitler was much worse than me. Stalin was much worse than me. The playing field is level. The Bible classifies every single person born of a woman as totally and utterly depraved! (See **Rom. 3:10 – 18** to see how God saw each one of us before Christ.)

However, in order to be saved, you have to confess that

1. Jesus as Lord and that
2. He is the only begotten Son of God, that
3. He came to the earth as a man, in other words in the flesh;
4. He suffered in His body so that we could experience divine healing;

5. He hung on the cross and was made sin for us that we may be made the righteousness of God;
6. He shed His blood so that our sins could be forgiven;
7. He was buried and
8. He rose on the third day!
9. We must believe in our hearts that God raised Him up on the third day!

Romans 10: 9 & 10

Once we are saved, there is another promise, which showers us with blessing.

Psm. 32:2 How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity.

This is repeated in the New Testament!

Rom 4:7 - 8 "Blessed [are those] whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed [is the] man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin."

So, when God looks at you He only sees perfection – He sees Jesus. Unless you understand this, you will never have a consistently good relationship with God our Father!!!

We now have to address a sacred cow, namely the confession of sin!

1. First of all, in the New Testament, there is not one single instance of anyone confessing their sins. Even after Peter denied Jesus, he did not confess his sin. Sorry he was indeed, but he never asked Jesus for forgiveness.
2. The woman caught in adultery never confessed her sin. The woman at the well who had had five “husbands” did

not confess her sin. No one confessed their sin or sins.

3. It is illogical to confess our sins. All our sins have been forgiven, past, present and future AND God says that He remembers our sins no more.
4. **Psm. 103:12** As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.
5. **Heb. 8:12** "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."
6. **Heb. 10:17** [then He adds,] "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."
7. Now John says that sin is the transgression of the Law.
8. **1 Jhn 3:4** Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.
9. So, when I confess my sins, I am saying that I am under the Law! Something, which the Bible explicitly contradicts!
10. One problem, namely **1 Jhn. 1:9**, which says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
11. First of all, **1 Jhn. 1:9** contradicts Paul's Gospel.
12. **Col. 2:13** says, "When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, *having forgiven us all our transgressions, (past present and future).*" Now, the Greek here is very clear. This happened once, in the past, never to be repeated again!

Gill, a very renowned commentator had this to say: - **having forgiven you all trespasses**. This was a past act, being done and over; not only at first conversion, when a discovery of it was made, but at the death of Christ, whose blood was shed for the remission of sin; yea, even as early as Christ became a surety, when the sins of his people were not imputed to them, but to him: and this was a single act, and done and complete at once; forgiveness of sin is not done by piecemeals, or at different times, or by divers acts, but is done at once, and includes sin past, present, and to come; and is universal, reaches to all sin, original and actual, before and after conversion; sins of thought, word, and action: and this is God's act, and his only; not men, nor ministers, nor angels, can forgive sin; this is the peculiar prerogative of God, and is owing to his abundant mercy and free grace, and which is signified by the word here used.

13. Now, 1 John is the only New Testament letter that is not addressed to someone! 1 John was written to refute the teachings of the Gnostics, who believed that you could serve God with your spirit and serve sin with your body. Therefore, according to them, I could visit a church on Sunday morning and a house of ill repute on Sunday night.
14. In addition to this, it clearly contradicts the history of the Gospels as well as Paul's Gospel.
15. Also, it is not possible to build a doctrine on a single verse, especially one that is this problematic.
16. Therefore, if we are to adhere to Paul's Gospel, we shouldn't confess our sins!!! It keeps us sin conscious.

Chapter 2 – God’s Will for Us (Rom. 5:17, 8:37)

Outline

- Who We Are – Our Inheritance in Christ in This Life - According to Paul’s Gospel
- Why Don’t We Experience It?
- The Bad Example of Good King Josiah!

1. Who We Are – Our Inheritance in Christ in This Life - According to Paul’s Gospel

Rom. 5:17 For if by the transgression of the one (Adam), death reigned through the one (Adam), much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, *Jesus Christ*. (*Only those who actively receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign.*)

Rom. 8:37 But in all these things we **overwhelmingly conquer** through Him who loved us.

2 Cor. 2:14 [T]hanks be to God, who **always** causes us to **triumph** in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.

Jhn. 10:10 [Jesus said] I came that they may have life, and have *it* **exceeding abundantly or excessively** (The meaning of the Greek word)

Eph. 2:6 [God] raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus; - **We are seated with Christ on God’s Throne!!!!**

Col. 1:12 – 14 [T]he Father has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. **13** For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and translated us **into the kingdom of His Beloved Son, 14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 Jhn. 4:17 [L]ove is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the Day of Judgment; because **as He [God] is (now), so also are we (now) in this world.**

2. If That is the Case, Why Don't We Experience It?

These promises are made in the context of Paul's Gospel and are only valid in terms of this Gospel. If we don't believe the Gospel, how can we really believe the promises? We ourselves void the promises of God through unbelief or a lack of knowledge or both. God is always, but always earnestly desiring to bless us! ***Faith and a lack of knowledge are the missing ingredients!*** Jesus said, "According to your faith be it unto you." **Mat. 9:29**

Most Christians do not know that the only way that we can understand the Scriptures is if we read the Bible under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. **1 Cor. 2:14** But the natural man **CANNOT** receive the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ***The things of God can only be understood by our spirits, not by our souls, not by our natural minds!!!*** Now that does not mean that we can just say "Holy Spirit, help me to understand the passage that I am reading."

Paul commands Timothy: -

2 Tim. 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Now the word “study” means to make every effort, to apply oneself diligently. It is very clear from the plethora of false doctrines, even in the real Body of Christ, that many do not take this instruction seriously. Remember my testimony about my quiet time. This will only happen by God’s grace!

It is almost impossible to read one passage and then to think that we understand it. It is always necessary to understand a verse or scripture in its context: -

- a. First in its immediate context, then
- b. Second, in the context of the chapter, then
- c. Third in the context of the Book, i.e. Romans, then
- d. Fourth in the context of the Testament, i.e. Old or New,
- e. Fifth – Is it before the cross or after the Cross?
- f. Sixth in the context of the whole Bible.

In other words, we can only really understand a scripture once we have read the whole Bible through many times.

In Hosea we see God lamenting: -

Hos. 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:

Even today God laments when His Saints die of disease or in accidents that cut their lives short. The Bible is very clear that all sickness is from the devil. So any one who dies of disease, dies not in victory, but in defeat. I do not say this harshly or judgmentally, it is just a fact of life.

3. The Bad Example of Good King Josiah!

As an example, let us look at how King Josiah's life was clearly cut short, when in fact God intended him to live a long and a peaceful life.

950 B.C. After the breakup of David's kingdom between Solomon's son Rehoboam and Jeroboam, Jeroboam built two altars for the northern kingdom, one in Samaria and one in Dan, in the north. As a result, the Lord sent a prophet to prophecy against these altars; namely, **1 Kng. 13:2** [The Prophet] cried against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar, thus says the LORD, 'Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.'".

650 B.C. Three hundred years later Josiah was born. **2 Kng 22:1** Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name *was* Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath.

When Josiah was twenty-six years old, in the eighteenth year of his reign, the Bible ("the book of the Law") was found in the temple. It was read to King Josiah and he repented and tore his clothes in mourning. He went out into all of Israel and cleansed the country of all altars and burned the bones of their priests on them.

On his return to Jerusalem, the Lord sent a prophet to him saying, **2 Chr. 34:28** "Behold, I will gather you to your fathers and you shall be gathered to your grave *in peace*, so your eyes will not see all the evil which I will bring on this place and on its inhabitants." And they brought back word to the king. i.e. Josiah received an unconditional promise from God that he would die in peace!!!

Josiah died in a war with Pharaoh!!! Josiah goes out against Pharaoh as Pharaoh comes up through Israel to go and fight against Assyria. **2 Chr. 35:21 - 24** But Neco sent messengers to [Josiah] saying, "What have we to do with each other, O King of Judah? *I am not coming* against you today but against the house with which I am at war, and God has ordered me to hurry. Stop for your own sake from *interfering with* God who is with me, so that He will not destroy you." **22** However, Josiah would not turn away from him, but disguised himself in order to make war with him; **He did not listen to the words of Neco from the mouth of God**, but came to make war on the plain of Megiddo. **23** The archers shot King Josiah, and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am badly wounded." **24** So his servants took him out of the chariot and carried him in the second chariot which he had, and brought him to Jerusalem where he died and was buried in the tombs of his fathers.

Does that mean that we cannot take God's promises seriously? Obviously not! So, there must be some reason that is not all that obvious!

This passage gives us the answer. God had given Israel commandments that they could not keep. Very unfair! However, He gave them a way out. He said to them that they had to listen to His voice. (A more detailed explanation is given in Appendix 3 – A Biblical View of the Holocaust.)

Exd. 23:21-22 Beware of Him [the Angel of the Lord] , and **obey His voice**, provoke him not; for He will not pardon your transgressions: for My name (YHWH) is in Him, and if you indeed **obey His voice**, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto your enemies, and an adversary unto your adversaries.

Deu. 13:4 You shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and **obey His voice**, and you shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

In other words, Josiah was expected to know the whole of the Torah at least!!! He died because he did not listen to the voice of God, but it is clear that he was not aware of the commandment. Many, many Christians die today, because they do not hear to the voice of God.

Hos. 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:

God expects us to not only know the Gospel, but also to embrace it!!! This is not a judgement, purely a fact of life!

Chapter 3 - Scriptural Exegesis (II Tim. 2:15)

[Interpretation/Understanding]

[How are we to interpret scripture?]

2 Tim. 2:15 Study [make every effort, apply yourself diligently] to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, ***rightly dividing the word of truth!***

Remember that it is always necessary to understand a verse or scripture in its context: -

1. First in its immediate context, then
2. Second, in the context of the chapter, then
3. Third in the context of the Book, i.e. Romans, then
4. Fourth in the context of the Testament, i.e. Old or New,
5. Fifth – Is it before the cross or after the Cross?
6. Sixth in the context of the whole Bible.

There are a small number of definite differences between what Jesus taught and what Paul taught. So, what is different? We know that the four Gospels, Mathew, Mark, Luke and John where all written concerning the life of Jesus on earth and what He came to do among the Jews and cover the period from His birth up to his ascension. We know that He came to fulfil the Law and to die on the cross to fulfil the wish of the Father, who gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. We know that while on earth He did the will of the Father and revealed

the Father to us. There is so much more He revealed to us of the Kingdom of God and His Glory.

Jesus came and lived under the Law. He was required to fulfil ALL the commandments, so that He could be a sinless, spotless, pure and holy sacrifice. He could not preach about the church, as that would have said that the Jews were going to reject Him. He couldn't say that until they had rejected Him. The Church was born on the Day of Pentecost, ten days after Jesus' ascension. So, Jesus gave Paul the gospel for the Church.

Rom. 2:16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to **my gospel**.

2 Tim. 2:8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to **my gospel**:

The Lord's Prayer, for instance says "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us". However, in Paul's writings we see a big difference. We are told to "forgive as you have been forgiven".

The latter puts the emphasis on Christ and His finished work!!!

Judas Hanged Himself

If I quote the following verses to someone, no one can accuse me of not being scriptural!! They are scriptural, but they are not truth!!!

- **Mat. 27:5** And [Judas] departed, and went and hanged himself.
- **Luk. 10:37** Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do likewise.

- **Jhn. 13:27** Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

Believers often quote scriptures in this way, even ministers and pastors. As we can see, quoting scripture doesn't mean that it is the truth. ☺

The Story of the twelve Spies

As a result of Israel's refusal to go into the Promised Land God judged them. He cursed them saying,

Num. 14:29 Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against Me, says the LORD??? ... **Num. 14:24** But my servant Caleb [and Joshua – see vs. 38] because he had another spirit with him, and has followed Me fully, him will I bring into the land where into he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Does that mean that only two of those who were older than twenty eventually went into the Land of Israel? No!!! God passed judgement on all those who had been numbered from twenty years old and upwards. However, there was a group that was not numbered from twenty years old and upwards, namely the Levites and the Priests!

Num. 2:33 But the Levites were not numbered among the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses.

How many men, of twenty years old and upwards, went into the Promised Land with Joshua? Joshua himself, Caleb and a number of the Levites/Priests who were older than twenty at the time of God's curse! Remember also that Eleazar, who ministered in the temple on the first day that it was set up, while they were still at Sinai, was the High Priest that led the

children of Israel into the Promised Land with Joshua forty years later. (For a more detailed exposition, see Chapter 12. – Water Baptism and Eternal Security.)

The Holy Spirit Does Not Convict Us of Sin!!!

I can't count the number of sermons that I have heard where preachers say that the Holy Spirit convicts Saints of their sin. This is a fallacy. If the Holy Spirit were to do this, He would become a nag bag. The Ten Commandments cannot be kept by any human being (In any event, we are no longer under the Law. See Chapter 10). Only God can do that. That is why Jesus had to come. Such preachers have brought the Ten Commandments down to a level where man can keep them, just as the Pharisees did in Jesus time.

We have only one commandment in the New Testament and it is even more impossible for a man to keep it, namely,

Jhn. 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another ***as I have loved you***". So, the day we can love like God loves, we can keep this commandment. The New Testament is not about keeping any Law, it is about a relationship with God.

Jhn. 16:8 - 11 And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: **9** Of sin, because they believe not on Me; **10** Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and you see Me no more; **11** Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Here Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit who is to come. In Verse **8** it says when He comes He will reprove the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.

Jesus clarifies this in **verse 9**. He explains what He means about the Holy Spirit reproofing the world of sin. He says because **THEY BELIEVE NOT ON ME**. For what sin is the Holy Spirit going to reprove the world? The fact that they do not believe on Jesus! This is the only sin for which man is going to be judged; the fact that they do not believe on the Lord Jesus. Salvation is available to every man no matter how terrible his crimes, if they believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. However, if they do not receive the free gift that the Father gave, His only begotten Son, mankind is condemned. Only in Christ is life.

In **verse 10** He speaks of righteousness and says He, the Holy Spirit, will reprove the world of righteousness but He clarifies in the end of the sentence who He is speaking of. He says “You see me no more.” Who was He speaking to? His disciples! Those who are saved! The task of the Holy Spirit, when we sin, is to remind us that we are righteous ones; that we have been bought with His blood and to remind us that we are the righteousness of the Father and focus us on the finished work of Christ. He is the comforter, who builds us up and strengthens us and encourages us to walk in what the Lord has done for us. To get us to lift our eyes back to our Saviour.

Verse 11 is self-explanatory and refers to the enemy of our souls reminding us that he is judged.

Contemporary Gospel

Homework – Find in the scriptures where the contemporary gospel is to be found. i.e. All men are sinners and have to repent of their sins and invite Jesus into their hearts.

Chapter 4 – Faith (Heb. 11)

Mar. 11:12 – 14, 20 - 24 On the next day, when they had left Bethany, [Jesus] became hungry. **13** Seeing at a distance a fig tree in leaf, He went *to see* if perhaps He would find anything on it; and when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. **14** He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" And His disciples were listening. **20** As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots *up*. **21** Being reminded, Peter said to Him, "Rabbi, look, the fig tree which You cursed has withered." **22** And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have the faith of God. **23** Truly I say to you, Whoever says to this mountain, Be taken up and be put into the sea; and has no doubt in his heart, but has faith that what he says will come about, he will have his desire. **24** "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, ***believe that you have already received them***, and they will be *granted* you.

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the sign that the things not seen are true.

2 Pet. 1:1 - 4 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ: **2** Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; **3** seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. **4** For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Heb. 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Faith brings things that are present in the spiritual realm, in the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus, into the physical realm. In other words, faith takes a promise in the Bible and makes it manifest in the physical realm.

Example 1

1 Pet. 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds ***you were healed***.

There is a grammatical tense in the Greek which appears in no other language. It is called the Aorist tense. It refers to a point in time in the past. i.e. _____ x _____. It does not refer to a continuous action.

Now when it says in **1 Pet. 24**, ***you were healed***, it means that you were healed when Jesus died on the cross. You are not being healed, but ***you were healed***.

Faith agrees with this biblical statement and it says, “What I am seeing now in the physical realm is not true! Only the Bible is true! Jesus took all my sicknesses and all my pains upon Himself on the cross so that I do not have to bear them. Therefore, I am not sick. I was healed 2000 years ago. Thank you Jesus!!!

Isa. 53:4 Surely our sicknesses He Himself bore, and our pains He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Faith is not always easy. When you have a terminal disease diagnosed by doctors, what do you do? Do you believe the doctors, or do you believe that Bible?

You can of course submit to the doctor's treatments and still believe that the Lord will ensure that you will survive. Personally, I think that this is much more difficult, but every one of us is different and the Lord treats each one of us uniquely.

Example 2

In the second letter of Peter, chapter 1 and verse four we read:

-

2 Pet 1:4 [God] has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature.

So, let us look at a few promises.

Mark 16:17 – 18 “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; *they* will speak with new tongues; **18** “they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

These verses say that there are specific signs that follow those who believe. It does not say that these signs follow only apostles!!!

What are these signs?

1. They will cast out demons!!!
2. They will speak in tongues!!!

3. They will take up serpents!!! (and bite their heads off and spit them out. ☺ - My version!!!)
4. They will lay hands on the sick and they will recover!!!

In other words, **if** these signs do not follow us, we can conclude that we have no or very little faith (i.e. we are not exercising the faith that we have been given!!!) Hard words??? Certainly not! God wants to bring us to a place where these signs follow all those who believe. So, if we confess our inadequacy to Him, He will bring us to a place where these signs will be every day events in our lives.

Mar.11:22 Jesus says, “Have the faith of God.” The translations do not translate the original Greek. Faith in this verse is in the Genitive or possessive case.

Gal. 2:20 the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God. Here only the King James’ version translates it correctly.

A Case Study

I was once asked to take devotions at a rural school where all the parents of the children are illiterate; they cannot read or write. While I was waiting in the staff room, I noticed the vision that the teachers had for the children, namely, “To make each child an economically active individual in the economy of the country.” My spirit rebelled against this vision. If a child had a pick and a shovel and he had a job digging trenches, he would be economically active.

So, during devotions the Lord led me share with the children, from grade 1 to grade 12, about faith. I shared with them Daniel's experience; his and those of his three friends.

Dan. 1:19 - 20 The king [Nebuchadnezzar] talked with [all the young men out of all the nations that he had conquered], and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's personal service. 20 As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ***ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in his entire realm.***

I then shared with them **Mar. 11:24** ... all things for which you pray and ask, ***believe that you have already received them,*** and they ***will be granted*** you.

I told them to pray for a week or two and ask the Lord to make them ten times wiser than all their contemporaries. After that, they were to thank the Lord that He had already made them ten times wiser than all their contemporaries!

Out of the whole school, one class really took the message to heart. At the end of the first semester all the children passed mathematics for the first time. At the end of that year, the matric [standard 12] pass rate increased to 74%. At the end of the following year, the matric pass rate rose to 89%!!!!

This is what constitutes faith. If we do not make biblical promises manifest in our lives, we are not exercising our faith. Remember Jesus asked, ... Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, shall he find faith on the earth? (**Luk. 18:8**)

Attending church, bible studies and prayer meetings are not a measure of faith. Even the devil attends!!!

Romans 10 verse 17 tells us about one of the methods by which we can receive faith or build up our faith.

Rom. 10 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. (The King James Bible incorrectly says “by the Word of God.”)

Another method that we can use to build up our faith is to pray with our spirit; in other words, to pray in tongues.

Jud 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, ***praying with the Holy Spirit,***

James says, “What [*does it*] profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,

16 and *one* of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what [*does it*] profit? **17 *Thus also***

faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. **18**

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.”

Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by ⁷ my works. **19** You believe that there is one God.

You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! **20** But

do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? **21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works

when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? **22** Do you see *that* faith was working together with his works, and by works faith

was made perfect? **23** And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “**Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to**

him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. **24** You see then that a man is justified by works, and not

by faith only. (***Jam. 2:14 -24***)

In other words, if there is nothing in my life to which I can point in order to demonstrate my faith to others, I have no faith!!! I must be able to say to someone, “I can cast out demons.” “I can heal the sick.” If there is nothing tangible that I can point to, I have no faith, according to James. That does not mean that I am not saved! Just that I have no, or very little faith.

Nowhere in the New Testament is anyone prayed for, for healing!!!!!!

Chapter 5 – Crucified with Christ

This is the central theme of Paul's Gospel! If we do not get this right, we will get nothing right. It is imperative, it is vital for us to understand this aspect of Paul's Gospel. In Hebrews chapter 4 Paul tells us to "fear" lest we fail to enter God's rest. And, in order to enter His rest, we need to understand that we have been crucified with Christ.

First of all, we need to really understand a Greek verb tense. It is called the Aorist tense. It is what is called a punctiliar tense. Let me explain. It is a past tense, but it is not:-

A simple past tense – I went to school, or

Past continuous - I was going to school.

More complex – I have been going to school.

It refers to a **point** in the past! Here is a diagram.

_____X_____

In other words, it refers to a point in the past. In English, we would have to say "I went to school on the 13th of August 1964.

Greek is a very technical language. It is just not possible for the New Testament to have been written in any other language without having to write a ten volume New Testament, something like an encyclopaedia.

Now down to business. Let us read Romans chapter 6 verses 1 – 10.

Rom. 6:1 – 10 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** Certainly not! How shall we who **died** to sin live any longer in it? **3** Or do you not know that as

many of us as ***were baptized*** into Christ Jesus ***were baptized*** into His death? **4** Therefore we ***were buried*** with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ ***was raised*** from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if ***we were united*** together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be [*in the likeness*] of [*His*] resurrection, **6** knowing this, that our old man ***was crucified*** with [*Him,*] that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. **7** For he who ***has died*** has been freed from sin. **8** Now if we ***died*** with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, **9** knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. **10** For [*the death*] that He ***died***, He ***died*** to sin once for all; but [*the life*] that He lives, He lives to God.

All the words that are highlighted are in the Aorist tense, meaning that these were events that happened in the past, once and once only. They were never repeated, ever.

Vs. 2 we who ***died*** to sin – we **died to sin once and for all**, it is not an ongoing process. It is a never to be repeated event!

Vs. 3 ***were baptized*** – into Christ and into His death once and for all!

Vs. 4 - we ***were buried*** with Him – through baptism into death - **once and for all** – we cannot die more than once!

Vs. 5 ***we were united*** – in the likeness of His death **once and for all**.

Vs. 6 *was crucified* – our old man, the sinful nature once and for all.

Vs. 7 *has died* – we died once and are therefore free from sin ever since we died; from the time that we died we were once and for all free from sin.

So, we died once for all. When? When Christ was crucified, 2000 years ago; our old man was crucified, we died; we also died to sin.

How does this apply to our lives? Why did Paul write this? Because of verse 11!!!

Rom. 6:11 Likewise you also, **reckon** [by faith] yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We are to **reckon** ourselves dead indeed unto sin!!! Reckon is a very technical word in Greek. It has to do with bookkeeping. When you get a statement from the bank and it says that you have a R10 000 positive balance in your account, what do you do? Do you phone the bank and say “Do I have a R10 000 positive balance in my account?” Do you go to the bank and stand in a queue for half an hour just so you can ask the teller if you do indeed have a R10 000 positive balance in your account? Obviously not!!! But this is what we do with the Word of God. As we shared in the last chapter, we question the Word of God, or we rationalise it away???

The Word of God says that we live by faith, not by sight! Again, what does this mean. It means that if we look inside of ourselves, we see the Old Man, our Sinful Nature alive and kicking!!! But the Word of God says that the Old Man was crucified!!! So, what is the truth? What we feel and see, or

what the Word of God says? Obviously what the Word of God says!!!

So, when the Old Man wants to manifest, what am I supposed to do? ***I ignore it!*** Why, because the Bible, the Word of God says it is dead. I don't grit my teeth and say to myself. My Old Man is dead! My Old Man is dead! My Old Man is dead! By doing this I acknowledge precisely the opposite that he is indeed alive, because I am trying to do something about him.

When I get a bank statement that says I have a R10 000 positive balance in my account, I don't grit my teeth and say "I have a R10 000 positive balance in my account." "I have a R10 000 positive balance in my account." "I have a R10 000 positive balance in my account." "I have a R10 000 positive balance in my account." Whatever I do or do not do, I have a R10 000 positive balance in my account. And this is how I treat the Word of God. It is like a bank statement. Whatever it says is true, whether I believe it or not. If I do indeed believe it I will reap ample rewards. If I do not believe it I will reap nothing. However, that does not change the fact that ***everything that the Word of God says is true!!!***.

Now, Galatians chapter 5 says:-

Gal. 5:24 And those [*who are*] Christ's ***have crucified*** the flesh with its passions and desires.

This verse says that those who are Christ's ***have crucified*** the flesh with its passions and desires. This is again our famous Greek Aorist tense!!! This is something that we did once in the past!!! It is not an ongoing process!!! It happened 2000 years ago on the cross!!!

I can never crucify my flesh??? It will not work. In fact it will have the opposite effect. It will make my flesh come alive and take control of my life, because I am acknowledging that it is alive!!! Just read Paul's experience when he tried to do this, when he came under the Law again, after he had received revelation that he died with Christ.

Rom. 7:15 - 17 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. **16** If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *[it is]* good. **17** But now, ***[it is] no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.***

In this verse, Paul acknowledges that he is powerless in this situation. Why? Because he is trying to crucify his flesh and he fails miserably!!! Surprise,

Just so we get the message, he repeats his statement!!!

Rom. 7:18 - 20 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *[how]* to perform what is good I do not find. **19** For the good that I will *[to do,]* I do not do; but the evil I will not *[to do,]* that I practice. **20** Now if I do what I will not *[to do,]* ***it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.***

1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 56 says:-

1 Cor. 15:56 ... the power of sin *[is]* the law.

If I do not believe that I died to the Law, I will sin and keep on sinning!!! I won't recognise it. But I will sin; usually by judging others, especially if I have a religious spirit.

Aspects of these issues are developed further in other chapters of this little booklet.

Chapter 6 – What Jesus Procured by His Suffering, Death, Burial and Resurrection

We Christian Believers are:

Forgiven of all Sins, Past, Present & Future (1 Pet 2:24: Psm 103:2-3).

1 Pet. 2:24 He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Psm. 103:2 - 3 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; 3 Who pardons **all** your iniquities, Who heals **all** your diseases;

Psm. 32:2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is* no guile.

Reconciled (Rom 5:10).

Rom. 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

At Peace with Father God (Eph. 1:2).

Eph. 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Children of Father God (1 Jhn 3:1-2).

1 Jhn. 3:1 - 2 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **2** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when

He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

Redeemed (Col 1:14).

Col. 1:14 in [Christ] we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Justified or made Righteous (Rom 5:1,9 ; 8:30).

Rom. 5:1 & 9 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **9** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Rom. 8:29 – 30 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; **30** and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Righteousness of God (2 Cor 5:21)

2 Cor. 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Sanctified or made Holy (1 Cor 1:30).

1 Cor. 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

Seated at the Right Hand of Father God in Christ (Eph. 2:6).

Eph. 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

Like Christ (1 Jhn 4:17; 1 Cor 2:16).

1 Jhn. 4:17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the Day of Judgment; because ***as He is, so also are we in this world.***

1 Cor. 2:16 For Who has known the mind of the Lord that we may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor 5:20 ; 6:1).

2 Cor. 5:20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Cor. 6:1 And working together *with Him*, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain--

Delivered from the power of "Satan-THE DEFEATED" (Col 1:13; Eph. 6:10-18; Psm 91).

Col. 1:13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

Healed and Restored in Spirit, Soul and Body (Isa. 53:4-5; 1 Pe.t 2:24; 1 Ths. 5:23).

Isa. 53:4 - 5 Surely our griefs (??? – should read sicknesses) He Himself bore, and our sorrows (??? – should read pains) He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. **5** But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.

1 Pet. 2:24 He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for ***by His wounds you were healed.***

1 Ths. 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

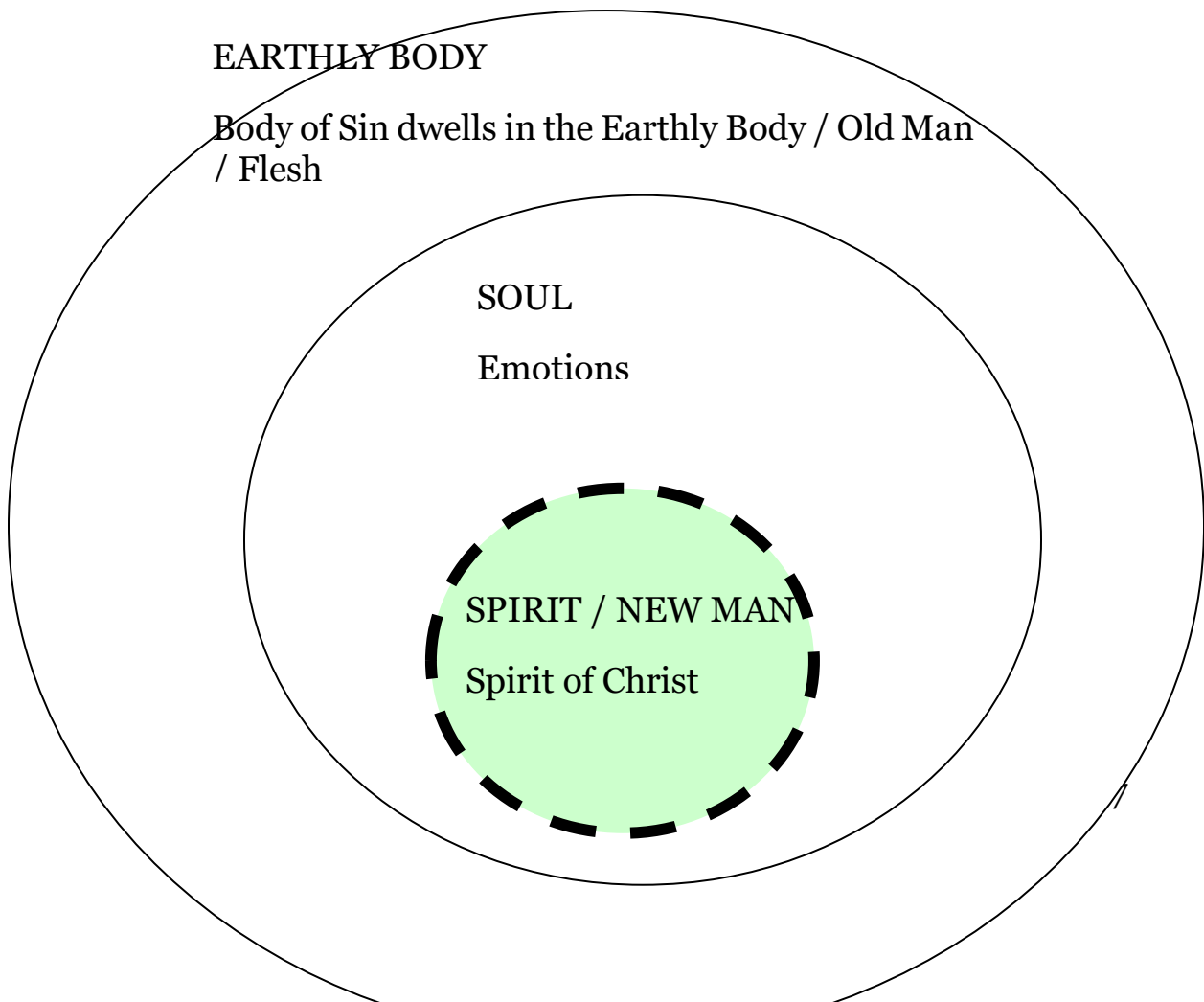
Chapter 7 – Spirit, Soul & Body (I Ths. 5:23)

REGENERATED MAN

(Born Again / New Spirit / Old Man Crucified)

1 Ths 5:23 [T]he very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole 1) **spirit** and 2) **soul** and 3) **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gen 1:26 - 27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our **image**, according to Our **likeness**; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27** God created man in His own **image**, in the **image** of God He created him; male and female He created them.



Man is a spirit; he possesses a soul and he lives in a body!

When God created man, He created him first in his likeness, meaning as a spirit. When it says in His image, it means in the same form as we see Jesus in the Old Testament, in the form of an angel, with a body, a head, eyes, a mouth, a nose and ears etc.

We see in these scriptures that there is a distinction between man's:-

spirit,

soul and

body.

Now this may seem confusing. However, this knowledge is vital to us. **Growth in spiritual terms** comes down to this:-

The separation between the Spirit and the Soul!!!!

John makes a statement in I Jhn 2:20, he says,

1 Jhn 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and ***you know all things***.

To the natural man and the carnal Christian this makes no sense. However, he is not referring to a man's soul, but to his spirit, which is one with Christ and therefore knows all things.

Paul makes an opposite statement in Romans 12 verse 1 and 2, he says,

Rom 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

In this scripture – Rom 12:1 - however, Paul is referring to the soul of the person and not his spirit!!!

Worshiping God in Spirit and in Truth

The quality and the depth of our relationship with God depend on the extent of our spiritual growth! Jesus said in **Jhn 4:24** God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him ***must worship him in spirit and in truth***. We can only worship God in spirit to the extent that we are aware of our spirits. In addition to this, we can only worship Him in truth to the extent that we know the truth and have been set free by it.

In other words, a carnal Christian cannot worship God to the same extent that a spiritually mature Christian can. After a wonderful worship service on a Sunday, you will find that many carnal Christians suffer from depression on Monday mornings. Why? Their worship came from their souls. They became very emotional, but had very little spiritual content in their worship. So, on Monday morning they are emotionally exhausted. It is just like children. The parents of a baby do not expect him to relate to them cognitively, i.e. with words that express his feelings and his attitude. However, just imagine if the child is now twenty years old and still does not relate to them on a cognitive level??? They will obviously not be able to

communicate effectively with him and vice versa. The Lord is not honoured by such worship when it comes from Christians who have been Christians for many years.

On the other hand, a mature Christian can worship God in spirit and have little or no emotional content in his worship, but it is eminently acceptable to God. (That does not mean that a mature Christian does not become emotional while he is worshipping God.)

Also, there is a difference between baby Christians and carnal Christians in God's eyes. Baby Christians are by nature carnal, but this is expected of them, but believers who have been Christians for an extended period of time are expected to be spiritual. In other words, a carnal Christian's worship is not acceptable to God in the way that a baby Christian's is

Also, Carnal Christians cannot understand the things of God. They cannot understand the Scriptures!!! Look what Paul says on this issue:-

1 Cor. 2:14 [The] natural man (and the Carnal Christian) **cannot** receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he **cannot** understand them, because they are *spiritually appraised*.

From Hebrew chapter 4 verse 12 we see that one of the actions of the Word of God, as we read it aloud (which is the only way that the Bible itself recognises), is to divide between the spirit and the soul of the believer!!!

Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as **the division of soul and spirit**, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

In mature Christians this separation is quite pronounced. However in carnal Christians there is almost no sense of separation.

The Carnal Christian

The carnal Christian can't distinguish that which comes from his spirit from that which comes from his soul. Usually that things that come out of him, that emanate from him, come from his soul.

1 Cor. 3:1 I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual men, but as unto carnal men, *even* as unto babies in Christ.

Paul, when writing to the Corinthians, called them Saints, Holy Ones. Even though there were many amongst them who were still carnal. There were divisions among them. Now we see in **Gal 5:19 – 21** that these are ***works of the flesh***. So, a carnal Christian manifests the works of the flesh in his life. Often though this is very subtle, as the Carnal Christian has learned the tricks of the trade, he has learned the “holy” language of the Church. However, the Carnal Christian usually gives himself away by judging others, ***even though it is prohibited***.

Rom 2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, every one of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for ***you who judge practice the same things***.

Jas 1:26 If any man among you seems to be religious, but does not bridle his tongue, he deceives his own heart; this man's religion *is* vain.

We see here that what the Carnal Christian does is to project his own faults onto others, because he refuses to admit his own faults.

The Carnal Christian may also be able to “fake” the fruit of the Spirit, but you will find that he cannot be consistent in it. His “true nature” often breaks through!!! ☹

A spiritual Christian will never judge other Christians, even when he sees their faults. Why??? Because he **knows** that it was and is the goodness of God that delivered him from his own faults and not his own wisdom and ability.

Rom 2:4 [D]o you think lightly of the riches of [God’s] goodness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

The Spiritual Christian

Spiritual Christians have discovered the distinction between the soul and the spirit. In them separation has taken place. They manifest the fruit of the Spirit in their lives on an ongoing basis, not by fits and starts! They know what Christ has accomplished for them on the cross.

Gal. 5:24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus **have crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires.

Now there is a grammatical tense in the Greek which appears in no other language. It is called the Aorist tense. It refers to a point in time in the past. i.e.

_____ x _____ It does not refer to a continuous action.

So, when **Gal. 5:24** says that those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh it refers to one event in the past. i.e. When

Christ was crucified, at the same time, all true believers crucified their flesh with its passions and lusts.

Rom. 6:6 – 7 *[O]ur old man was crucified with Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.

Rom. 7:18 – 20 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, *in my flesh* (natural body); for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but *sin which dwells in me*.

Paul uses the word flesh in two ways. He uses it for the old nature, but he also uses it for the natural flesh of the body. Only by reading the context can we understand in which way he is using it.

Born Again and Born Again???

There is a difference between being “born again” and being “born again”!!! Let me explain. In John chapter three Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night. (Nicodemus was one of the seventy leaders of Israel and did not want to be seen speaking to Jesus.) Jesus says to him:-

Jhn. 3:3 Truly, truly, I say to you, except a man be born again, he cannot **see** the kingdom of God.

We see here that just in order **to see** the kingdom of God we need to be born again. However, in verse 5 Jesus tells us what needs to happen so that we can enter the kingdom of God.

Jhn. 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, except a man be ***born of water*** and ***of the Spirit***, he cannot ***enter*** into the kingdom of God.

So, what does it mean to be born of water?

Remember that Jesus said to His disciples:-

Jhn. 15:3 Now you are ***clean through the word*** which I have spoken to you.

Paul tells us that Jesus:-

Eph. 5:25 – 26 Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it ***with the washing of water by the Word***,

Tit. 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by ***the washing of regeneration***, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

We see here that the Word is synonymous with or the same as water! So, in some instances they are interchangeable. 1 Peter 1 tells us that we have been born again by the Word of God!

I Pet. 1:23 [You have been] *born again*, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, ***by the Word of God***, which lives and stays forever.

Once a believer has been saved, He cannot be lost, provided he has been baptised as an adult i.e. he has experienced believer's baptism – see Chapter 14 for an in-depth look at this issue.

Having said this, in Matthew 7 Jesus says:-

Mat. 7:21- 23 Not everyone that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. **22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, ***have we not prophesied in your name?*** and in your name have ***cast out devils?*** and in your name ***done many wonderful works?*** **23** And then will I profess to them, ***I never knew you***: depart from me, you that work iniquity.

Jesus will say to them that He ***never*** knew them, yet they did all these wonderful things in His name. From where did they get the power and the authority to do these things? Only from God! The devil cannot perform miracles. We also know that a normal person cannot drive out demons. The seven sons of Sceva tried and were greatly embarrassed:-

Act. 19:113 - 16 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took on them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the LORD Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches. **14** And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. **15** And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you? **16** And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that ***they fled out of that house naked and wounded.***

Being born again only of the Spirit is not a guarantee of escaping eternal damnation. We must be born again of ***the Word*** and of ***the Spirit***. How can we identify a person who has been born only of the Spirit? Usually, someone who is born only of the Spirit and not of the Word is unteachable, proud and arrogant and usually continues in his sin, whereas I John 3 says:-

I Jhn. 3:9 Whoever is born of God does not commit sin; for his seed remains in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

In Greek however, there is no normal present tense. This verse is written in the continuous present tense meaning “he cannot go on sinning”.

1 Cor. 6:17 [T]he one who joins himself to the Lord is one **SPIRIT**.

1 Cor. 5:5 *I have decided* to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his **flesh**, so that his **SPIRIT** may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (Note, not his soul???)

Psm. 42:5 Why are you in despair, O my **soul**? And *why* have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him *for* the help of His presence.

Psm. 31:9 Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye is wasted away from grief, my **soul** and my **body** *also*.

Psm. 26:9 Do not take my **soul** away *along* with sinners, **NOR** my **life** with men of bloodshed,

We see, for instance, David speaking to his soul. (There are very many other instances where David speaks to his soul. See the end of this chapter for many other references.)

We see that we are one spirit with Christ. His spirit is our spirit. We are the body of Christ and He is the head. A person does not have one spirit for his body and another for his head. **OUR SPIRIT IS THEREFORE PERFECT!** It is Christ’s very own spirit!

Other scriptures that demonstrate the difference between the spirit and the soul

Psm. 23:3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Psm. 30:11 - 12 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness, **12 That** *my* soul may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

Psm. 42:5 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And *why* have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him *For* the help of His presence.

Psm. 62:1 My soul *waits* in silence for God only; From Him is my salvation.

Psm. 62:5 My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him.

Psm. 103:1 A *Psalm* of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name.

3 Jhn. 1:2 Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.

Chapter 8 – Sin, Righteousness & Holiness (I Cor. 1:30)

Sin: The literal meaning of the Hebrew and Greek words variously rendered "sin," means:

Missing the mark! This means a failure to meet the divine standard. In other words, anyone who responds to a given situation in a way different from the way God Himself would respond is sinning.

Take for example the first commandment.

Deu. 6:5 "You shall love the LORD your God with ***all*** your heart and with ***all*** your soul and with ***all*** your might.

This means that whenever our minds wander, we are sinning; when we wake in the morning and our very first thought is not of God, we are sinning; if we do not acknowledge God every minute of the day, we are sinning. That means that we are sinning from the time we open our eyes until long after we fall asleep.

Why does a Christian not sin?

Ask anyone you know why a Christian does not sin. You will get answers like, "because he loves Jesus" or "He fears God" or something similar. I have never yet received the right answer. Yet the Bible tells us very clearly why a Christian does not sin.

Rom. 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that ***are dead to sin***, live any longer therein?

Romans chapter 6 tells us that we died with Christ 2000 years ago on His cross.

Rom. 6: 3 – 6 Know you not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were ***baptized into His death?***; **4** Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection: **6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that from now on ***we should not serve sin.***

Paul also tells us in Galatians chapter 5:-

Gal. 5:24 [They] that are Christ's ***have crucified*** the flesh with the affections and lusts.

This event happened 2000 years ago. It is a onetime event. We have to accept it by faith. We will never be able to crucify our flesh with the affections and lusts by ourselves!!! We must accept it by faith.

So, what does Paul's Gospel say?

Jesus died, He was buried and He rose from the dead. Through this He accomplished all that we could ever need for salvation.

All Our Sins are Forgiven; Past, Present and future!!

1 Jhn. 1:7b The blood of Jesus, [God's] Son, ***purifies us from all sin.*** (Cleanses us)

Eph. 1:7 In [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Col. 1:14 In [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Heb. 1:3 [Jesus] when He had by Himself purged our sins (one for all), sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Rev. 1:5 [Jesus] loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

We see in these verses that Jesus washed us from our sins. The last two verses say that we were forgiven, past tense. The first verse says that we are constantly being purified.

Martin Lloyd Jones, a very famous preacher, preached out of the book of Romans for nine years every Friday night. His had a congregation of thousands way back in the beginning of the twentieth Century and he had this to say:-

Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones teaching on Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. The apostle (Paul) is asserting that if we are Christians, ***your sins and mine – past sins, present sins, and future sins – have already been dealt with once and forever!*** Had you realized that? Most of our troubles are due to our failure to realize the truth of this verse. ‘There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, is so often understood to mean nothing more than that past sins have been dealt with. Of course it means that; but is also means your present sins; even more, it means that any sin you may ever chance to commit has already been dealt with. You will never, you cannot ever, come under condemnation.

This is what the apostle is saying – nothing can ever bring the Christian again into a position of condemnation..... The Christian can never be lost; the Christian can never come under condemnation. “No condemnation” is an absolute word, and we must not detract from it. To do so is to contradict and to deny the Scripture...

But why does the apostle say this, and on what grounds does he say it? Is it not a dangerous thing to say? Will it not incite people to sin? If we tell Christians that their past sins, their present and their future sins have already been put away by God, are we not more or less telling them that they are free to go out and sin? If you react in that way to my statements I am most happy, for I am obviously a good and true interpreter

We Have Been Made Righteous

1 Cor. 1:30 But by His [God’s] doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification (holiness), and redemption.

Jesus is our righteousness and our holiness, so our actions can never impact or impinge or detract from our righteousness and our holiness. Even when we sin, we remain righteous and holy. If that was not the case, we could never be righteous and holy.

Only, if like the Pharisees, we bring the holy, perfect Law of God down to the level of man, can we keep it. ***The Law is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil!***

We have the same choice that Adam had in the garden. We can choose the tree of life, Jesus, or the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the Law. Most believers unfortunately choose the Law and not Jesus. ☹

Rom. 3:22 [T]he righteousness of God comes by the faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe:

Rom. 4:5 But to him that does not work, but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Rom. 4:6 Even as David also describes the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputes righteousness without works,

Rom. 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

2 Cor. 5:21 For He has made Him [Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

We Have Been Made Holy

1 Cor. 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who **have been sanctified** in Christ Jesus, **saints by calling**, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

1 Cor. 6:11 Such were some of you; but you ***were*** washed, but you ***were*** sanctified (made Holy), but you ***were*** justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Heb. 10:10 By [God's] will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ***once for all***.

Heb. 10:14 For by one offering He ***has perfected for ever*** those who are sanctified.

1 Jhn. 4:17 [As Jesus/God] is, so also are we in this world.

Jud. 1:1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called:

In all of Paul's letters to the churches, he addresses the believers as Saints or "Holy Ones". Paul even called the Corinthians saints. He called them saints even though one of their number was sleeping (having sex) with his mother or his step-mother; even though some of them had died; some had become sick and some were weak because they did dishonoured the communion. So, their actions, their carnality, their sins did not affect their righteousness and their holiness!!!

However, there was one exception. The Galatians! Paul refused to call them saints. In fact, he called them fools|!!! Now Jesus said that if we call any one a fool, we shall be in danger of hell fire. So, Paul had a real problem with the Galatians. What was this problem? We see Paul addressing the problem in:-

Gal. 1:8 - 9 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you **a gospel contrary to what we have preached** to you, ***he is to be accursed!!*** **9** As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you **a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!**

The problem was that someone was preaching another gospel to the Galatians. What was this gospel? This (false) gospel had

introduced the Law into the gospel. The Law is a covenant of works.

Paul says to them in:-

Gal. 3:1 - 7 You **foolish Galatians**, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed crucified? **2** This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by the hearing with faith? **3** Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, **are you now being perfected by the flesh?** **4** Did you suffer so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain? **5** So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? **6** Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS! **7** Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.

Gal. 3:10 - 12 For **as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse**; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM." **11** Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." **12** However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM."

Gal. 5:2 - 4 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if you are circumcised, **Christ shall profit you nothing.** **3** For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. **4** **Christ is become of no effect unto you**, whosoever of you are justified by the law; **you are fallen from grace.**

In these three verses Paul gives a dire warning. He says that if we introduce the Law into the gospel, that Christ will profit us nothing; He will become of no effect to us; we are fallen from grace! According to Hebrews chapter 6 and chapter 10, it is only this sin that can cause a born again, baptised Christian to lose his salvation!

Paul regards only those who live solely by faith in Christ as saints. If we introduce the Law, no matter how little, he says that we are fallen from grace. In other words we are no longer saved. The only other place where this dire warning is given is in the letter to the Hebrews, chapter 6 and 10.

Heb. 6:4 – 6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost. **5** And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **6** If they shall fall away, to renew them again to repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

- **Heb. 10:23 - 32** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; **24** and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. **26** For **if we go on sinning wilfully** after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27** but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. **28** Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on *the testimony of* two or three witnesses. **29**

How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and **has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified**, and ***has insulted the Spirit of grace?*** **30** For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." **31** It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. **32** But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, **33** partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. **34** For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. **35** Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. **36** For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.]

Those who do not rightly divide the Word of God use this to bring Christians under condemnation and try and prove that a Christian can indeed lose his salvation. We always, but always need to read a scripture in its context.

In verse 26 it says, "**if we go on sinning wilfully**". Firstly it says "go on sinning" meaning continuously. Remember that in John's first letter chapter 3 he says:-

1 Jhn 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot go on sinning, because he is born of God.

Paul, after he was saved sinned and kept on sinning despite the fact that he did not want to sin – Romans chapter 7. However, once he received revelation of Rom 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” that he was delivered from the cycle of sin.

regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified. Now, no real born again believers, even when they may be sinning wilfully or even eagerly can ever regard the blood of the covenant as unclean!!!

In the last few verses of the section quoted above, Paul encourages them to continue in the faith despite the severe persecution that they had suffered. So, we can see what sin he is talking about – Going back to Judaism as a result of persecution.

Remember that this letter was written to Jews!!! They were going back under the Law due to social, economic and other pressures.

Now, almost without exception, everywhere you go, you will hear a mixed Gospel. So, Paul says that these people who introduce the Law, in fact any law, into the church, into the gospel, are to be accursed!!!

Chapter 9 – Why did God Give the Law?

The Law is perfect. Only God Himself can keep the Law, because it is at His level. One of the things Jesus did was to restore the Law to its rightful place. The Pharisees had brought the Law down to a level where they could keep it. It was never God's intention that man would be able to keep the Law. Jesus magnified the Law. He made it even stricter than it was in the Old Testament, so that no one would ever again be able to say that he could keep it. For example:-

Mat. 5:21 - 22 [Jesus said] "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'you shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' **22** "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and ***whoever says [to someone] , 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.***

Mat. 5:27 - 28 "You have heard that it was said, you shall not commit adultery'; **28** but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with desire ***has already committed adultery with her in his heart.***

No one can or has ever been able to keep the Law. Moses sinned so grievously that God would not let him into the Promised Land. The same goes for Aaron the High Priest. King David should have been stoned twice; once for premeditated murder and once for committing adultery. Isaiah said of himself:-

Isa. 6:5 - 7 "Woe is me, for I am ruined; because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." **6** Then one

of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 He touched my mouth *with it* and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and ***your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.***"

Now we need to understand that you only ever got one chance to break the Law. Once you had broken it, you had broken it. You did not get a second chance! Why? The punishment for contravening one of the Commandments was death in most cases. No amount of repentance could save you.

Jesus also said - **Mat 5:18** "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Heaven will pass away, but the earth will never pass away. So Jesus was saying that the Law would never pass away. However, we know from the Book of Revelation, as well as from Ezekiel chapters 40 to 48 that the Law in the form that is was given to Moses will pass away. In Jeremiah Chapter 31 the Lord says that He will make a new covenant with the house of Israel!!!! However, He qualifies it. He says until all things are fulfilled. – On the cross Jesus said, "It is finished." In other words, **All things were fulfilled!!!**

Why did God give the Israelites a Law that only God Himself could keep?

God sent the Law so that the Israelites would sin much more! Let us see that the Scriptures say:-

Rom. 5:20 The Law was given so that the sin would increase greatly;

Why would a Holy God do something that would cause people to sin much more than they were sinning anyway?

Rom. 3:20 [B]y the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in [God's] sight; for ***through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.***

Rom. 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. No, ***I had not known sin, but by the law:*** for I had not known lust, except the law had said, You shall not covet.

So, God gave the Israelites the Law so that they would KNOW that they were sinners!

Rom. 4:15 Where no law is, there is no sin.

Rom. 7:8 Without the law there is no sin.

Now, **Rom. 5:20** says, "The Law was given so that the sin would increase greatly, but where sin increased, ***grace abounded all the more.***" - The first reaction of ***the carnal mind*** would say that the grace was given so that there would not be much sin. However, that would have been self-defeating! Why send a Law that would cause people to sin and then give them grace so that they will not sin? Absolutely illogical!!! We have seen that even the greatest prophets of the Old Testament ***sinned greatly***. So, it is obvious that there was no grace to "not sin". So, what was this grace that abounded? If we read through the whole Old Testament we see that the grace that was given caused the punishment of the Law not to be applied. In other words, the grace meant that the punishment of the Law was not applied. David should have died twice!

Gal. 3:24 [T]he law was our schoolmaster ***to bring us*** unto Christ.

So, we see that the Law was given that we would sin more and more, so that we come to the place where we realize that we need salvation; that we need a saviour!!!

Praise the Lord for His infinite wisdom! \o/\o/\o/\o/\o/\o/

Mat. 5:18 [Jesus said] Verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, ***till all be fulfilled.***

Now what did Jesus say on the cross? **John 19:28** After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished (***all things were fulfilled***), that the scripture might be fulfilled, said, I thirst. **29** Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it on hyssop, and put it to his mouth. **30** When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, ***It is finished:*** and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.

We see that all was fulfilled, all was finished!!!

Col. 2:14 Blotting out the ***handwriting of ordinances*** that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

What was the handwriting of ordinances? The Law was handwritten by God Himself! So the Law, the Ten Commandments were nailed to Jesus cross!!!

Chapter 10 – Dead to the Law

The Bible says very clearly and explicitly that **true** believers have **died to the Law**; not only have they died to the Law, but they have died to the **principle** of law; in other words any law.

Gal. 2:19 [Paul says] I *through the Law* am *dead to the Law*, SO THAT I might live to God.

Here Paul says that he is dead to the Law through the Law. **So that!!!** In other words if he is not dead to the Law **he cannot** live to God!!!

Gal. 5:17 -18 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that you cannot do the things that you would. **18** But if you be led of the Spirit, **you are not under the Law**.

This may sound like a conditional statement, meaning that only those believers who are led by the Spirit are not under the Law. However, this is not the case. In Romans chapter 8 Paul says that “as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God”. He says that all God’s children are led by the Spirit of God!

Rom. 7:4 - 6 [M]y brothers, you ... are **become dead to the Law** by the body of Christ; **so that** you should be married to another, even to Him who is raised from the dead, **so that** we should bring forth fruit to God. **5** For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the Law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit to death **6** But now **we are delivered from the Law**, SO THAT being dead wherein we were held; **so that** we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter

We see in these verses that a Christian who has been born of the Spirit and the Word is not under any law what so ever; not the Ten Commandments, not the laws of his church or congregation; not even the laws of his spouse.

What happens when a believer deliberately chooses to go under the Law?

Let us look at Romans with emphasis on chapter 7:

Paul's Gospel is found in its entirety only in the Book of Romans from chapter 1 to chapter 8. Paul develops his Gospel from the basics. In chapter 6 he gets a revelation that he died with Christ and that **he has died to sin!** BUT, after this, in chapter 7 we see him struggling against sin and losing the battle!!!

Rom. 7:15 – 17 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I **will** to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I practice. **16** If, then, I do what I **will** not to do, I agree with the Law that [it is] good. **17 But now, [it is] no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.**

Here we see Paul abdicating all responsibility for his sins. How can this be?

Rom. 7 18 – 19 I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwells no good thing: for **to will** is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. **19** For the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. **20** Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwells in me.

Here he does it again!!! Why? What happened between chapter 6 and chapter 7, verses 15 – 19? Let us see.

What caused Paul to get into this odious situation; this loathsome condition? What gives sin the power to overcome us, to overpower us???

The Law!!!!!!!!!!

I Cor. 15:56 [T]he power of sin is the Law.

Rom. 7:8 But sin, taking occasion by **the commandment**, worked in me all manner of concupiscence. For ***without the law sin was dead***. **9** For I was alive without the law once: but **when the commandment came, when the law came, sin revived**, and I died.

Here we find the answer! The Law! The Commandment! He says that when the commandment came to his conscience, sin revived. This means that

17. there was a time when there was sin,
18. then there was no sin and
19. then sin revived.

When could there have been no sin? Obviously only after Paul had been born again was there no sin!!! However, when the commandment came sin revived!!!

So, how does the commandment come?

When a person comes to faith he is often in a euphoric state. Many call this initial period a “honeymoon” period. In this period, it is almost impossible to sin! I personally experienced such a period. It is the “baby” or “infant” period. God, in His grace, allows the new believer, the new Christian, to experience an unprecedented measure of grace. This may last from weeks to several years, depending on the particular

circumstances and the particular individual. During this period, the Holy Spirit acts like a mother with a new born baby; feeding the new born and changing his nappies. ☺ However, at a point the new believer has to start growing. God accomplishes this by quickening the person's conscience and voila, **his conscience** tells him what is right and what is wrong. The Law has been quickened in the new Christian's life. What happens? The Law is the power of sin! Sin revives and the new Christian, who has been living without sin, suddenly finds that he is sinning again and he cannot help himself. He cannot stop sinning and he goes into what I call a Romans chapter 7 experience.

What is God's object in doing this? The new Christian must learn to live by faith and not by his experiences. He now starts searching for a solution and as he studies the Word of God he begins to find the answers. **1 Jhn. 2:27** ... His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

1 Cor. 2:14 [T]he natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The new Christian must learn that he has been set free from **not only the Law, but from any and all laws**. He must accept by faith that he was crucified with Christ. He must learn that "they that are Christ's (by faith) have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." (**Gal. 5:24**)

A Christian who has put himself under the Law or any law will sin!!! (Maybe not an obvious sin like adultery, but he will sin! Often he judges others, a sin equal in God's eyes to adultery.) **He is incapable of serving God**. He may even have a ministry as a pastor or minister or a missionary, but the Bible

is very clear; he cannot serve God. He is serving his own flesh.
He has fallen from grace.

So that Unless we die to the Law, any law for that matter, we cannot live to God!!!

In **Col. 2:14** we see, “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;”

According to this verse, the 10 Commandments were nailed to the cross, because only God Himself wrote with His hand in the Old Testament!!!

Chapter 11 – No Condemnation (Rom. 8:1)

Rom. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus.

Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones teaching on Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. The apostle (Paul) is asserting that if we are Christians, ***your sins and mine – past sins, present sins, and future sins – have already been dealt with once and forever!*** Had you realized that? Most of our troubles are due to our failure to realize the truth of this verse. ‘There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, is so often understood to mean nothing more than that past sins have been dealt with. Of course it means that; but is also means your present sins; even more, it means that any sin you may ever chance to commit has already been dealt with. You will never, you cannot ever, come under condemnation.

This is what the apostle is saying – nothing can ever bring the Christian again into a position of condemnation..... The Christian can never be lost; the Christian can never come under condemnation. “No condemnation” is an absolute word, and we must not detract from it. To do so is to contradict and to deny the Scripture...

But why does the apostle say this, and on what grounds does he say it? Is it not a dangerous thing to say? Will it not incite people to sin? If we tell Christians that their past sins, their present and their future sins have already been put away by God, are we not more or less telling them that they are free to go out and sin? If you react in that way to my statements I am most happy, for I am obviously a good and true interpreter

Condemnation comes when our thoughts or our consciences or the devil condemns us. Condemnation is very subtle. For instance, even when we do good things, the devil tells us that it was not good enough. Or, when we fail to live up to the standard that the church imposes on us, we feel that we have failed drastically.

I had such an experience recently. In the black/white tension in the country (South Africa) I always involve myself when I see tensions rising. I begin speaking to the people involved and by the grace of God defuse the situation. However, as I said, recently, I went to a public toilet and when I came out there was a young black man of about twenty five who was manhandling two young black girls of about twelve or thirteen. I spoke to him and told him that that was no way to treat women. He was very arrogant and tried to stare me down. I told the girls to pass by and he wanted to go after them. I told him sternly that he was to stay where he was. He had no option but to obey as I am very much bigger than he was. ***For days afterwards*** I battled with condemnation, because I had not responded to him in a gentle way. Even though I know that ***there is no condemnation***, I struggled.

Rejecting all condemnation is essential to a walk in the Spirit. In Romans chapter 7 the word “I” appears nineteen times. From chapter 1 to chapter 7 the words “Holy Spirit” appear three times. However, in chapter 8 which deals with our walk in the Spirit, the words “Holy Spirit” appear eighteen times. Romans 8:1 is the bridge between the struggle with sin and the walk in the Spirit.

Rom. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.

If we are not able to reject **all** condemnation ***we will not be able walk in the Spirit.***

Now, in **Rom. 7:24 - 25** Paul cries out, “O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? **25** I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Meaning, who will deliver him from the vicious cycle of sin. He then thanks God through Jesus Christ. Then he says something strange. He says that with his mind he serves the Law of God, but with his flesh (his old nature) the law of sin. That does not mean that he goes around sinning. Not at all! He says that with his flesh he serves the law of sin and ***that is why*** there is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Meaning we will always have bad thoughts and will have negative emotions in certain situations. Whenever this happens, we must realise that this is the natural state of a Christian and we are not ***under any circumstances*** to feel condemned or to accept condemnation!

For many years in a local Sunday newspaper, before I was saved, I was fascinated by a weekly recurring story of some pastor who had run away with the organist or his secretary. I just couldn't understand it. However, after I was saved, the Lord showed me what happened. The pastor had been working with the woman for a period of time usually. On a particular day he may have had a fight with his wife or she had just cheesed him off. So, when he walked into the office or the church he noticed his secretary or the organist as a woman for the first time. His first instinct was to condemn himself. He shouldn't feel like this! This was sin! Immediately he made a law! A Christian must never have these kinds of thoughts or reactions! He fell straight into the devil's trap! **Rom. 7:25**

says specifically that all Christians will have these kinds of thoughts and feelings and that is why we shouldn't receive any condemnation, ever! The next thing he does is to fast, so as to be delivered from the situation. It is the worst thing he can do! He now experiences his urges magnified a thousand times. Eventually he falls! Not because he chose to fall, but because he could not help himself. He was ignorant of Paul's Gospel!!!

So, in order to be free from sin, we need to be free from the Law; from any law for that matter. This is very clear from the Scriptures.

Chapter 12 – Walking in the Spirit (Romans 8)

Once the Christian comes to Romans chapter 8 He finds himself:-

1. in the hands of the blessed Comforter, the indwelling Spirit, in whose almighty and loving ministry he finds "life and peace."
2. as God's elect. The Christian is God's elect! Without any cause in himself! He is God's elect by grace and by grace alone! The Christian can DO nothing in order to become God's elect! He is involved in a great Divine purpose that will end in his being conformed completely to Christ's image.
3. beloved in Christ; and therefore never to be "separated" from that love.

Romans chapter 8 comes:-

1. after the work of Christ—
2. after His atoning blood has put the believer's sins away;
3. after he has seen that he died with Christ, — to sin, and also to the legal responsibility he had in Adam; 2000 years ago! This legal responsibility was to live righteously before God.
4. after the words, "Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under Law, but under Grace"; and, finally,
5. after the hopeless struggle of the apostle has shown that "the flesh" is incurably bad; Romans 7 and that

6. there is a blessed deliverance, which, though not changing "the body of this death," nevertheless gives freedom therefrom "through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The subject here in chapter 8 is no longer Christ's work for us, but ***the Spirit's work within us.***

Rom. 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!!! No condemnation whatsoever!!! For whatever reason! There is no condemnation even when we sin!!! (Now the King James' adds, "that walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. This addition is not in the original documents. It is called a "gloss" from verse 4.)

Rom. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life ***in Christ Jesus*** has set you free from the law of sin and of death. The Spirit sets us free! Even as Christians, born again of the Spirit and of the Word, we have no power against the sin working in our unredeemed bodies!!! We saw in Romans chapter 7 that Paul, the great apostle, was helpless and could not stop sinning even after he had received revelation that he had died to sin!

Rom. 8:3 - 4: For, (***the thing the Law could not do***, because it was powerless on account of the flesh), God, having sent His own Son in the likeness of flesh of sin, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteous result of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to flesh, but according to Spirit.

Several things appear at once from this passage:

1. God did a thing that ***the Law could not do***; He condemned sin in the flesh!!!
2. God made it possible to live a holy life.
4. God's plan is "apart from law," without law's help or "rule."

God's purpose was to get at sin that resides, that lives, in natural flesh of humans, and deal with it at the cross in the way of righteous condemnation, so that sin would no longer have any rights in human bodies.

Rom. 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. A Christian is ALWAYS in the Spirit. He cannot be in the flesh!!! It does not depend on his actions or lack of actions or his sins!!!

Rom. 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Being "led by the Spirit" does not refer here to service, nor to "guidance" in particular paths. It refers to that general control by the blessed Spirit of those born of the Spirit, living by the Spirit, in the Spirit. He is the sphere and mode of their being, and is their seal unto the day of redemption.

Rom. 8:15 [Y]ou have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

We, as Christians are in the Spirit's sphere and control and this in itself is the proof of the reality of our Sonship. However, let us not think that the assurance of our Sonship is based on our perfect obedience to the Spirit. ***Nothing is based upon us.*** If one of God's true saints disobeys, it is the office of that same Spirit to convict him of his righteousness.

Rom. 8:28 - 30 [W]e know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. **29** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined (**already**) conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among

many brethren; **30** and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, ***He also glorified.***

We are conformed to the image of Jesus. Already!!! In 1 Jhn 4:17 we are told:-

1 Jhn. 4:17 [W]e may have confidence in the Day of Judgment; because as He [Jesus] is (now in heaven, glorified), so also are we in this world.

We have also been glorified!!!

So, for a born again Christian, walking in the Spirit is something natural. We do not have to try and walk in the Spirit. We just have to “hang loose” and we will automatically walk in the Spirit!!

Psm. 46:10 “Hang Loose” and know that I am God. Hang loose is as close as it is possible to get to the original word in Hebrew. (הִרְפוּ)

So, our only task is ***to believe in Christ*** and ***to fix our eyes on Him.*** Everything else will happen automatically!!!!

Jhn. 6:29 Jesus answered and said to [His disciples], "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

Heb. 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith

In order to walk in the Spirit,

1. We need to be righteousness conscious and not sin conscious!

2. We need to reject all condemnation, no matter what the source of the condemnation. Also,
3. We need to believe that we are righteous and holy in Christ!
4. We need to hang loose and above all,
5. We need to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus!

Chapter 13 – Jesus in Us Works (Gal. 2:19-20)

Another aspect of Paul's Gospel that has been lost is the fact that it is Jesus in us who works; it is Jesus in us that does the work; it is Jesus in us that does the miracles; it is Jesus in us who loves.

I Jhn. 4:8 God is love (agape in Greek).

God is love! That means that this love is divine; it is infinite just as God is infinite; it is at God's level, at God's standard. In other words, only God can love like this. Man is incapable of ***agape love***!!!

Yet, this is the kind of love, ***agape love***, which God demands of us!

Jhn. 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you "***agape***" one another, even as I have "***agape***" you, that you also ***agape*** one another.

Here Jesus commands His disciples ***to do the impossible***. To be God! For only God is ***agape***. Obviously, there is something here that is hidden to the sight of normal man. So, let us see what Jesus was actually saying.

Jhn. 12:49 "For I did not speak on my own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent me has given me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.

Jhn. 14:10 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

Jhn. 14:24 [Jesus said to His disciples] ... the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

Mat 10:19 - 20 [Jesus said to His disciples] ... "But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say. **20** "For it is not you who speak, but ***it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.***

Jhn. 5:19 Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, ***the Son can do nothing of Himself,***

So, we see that ***Jesus can do nothing of Himself*** in His humanity, even though He had been anointed with the Holy Spirit and with Power. He had entered God's rest and allowed the Father to work through Him and to speak through Him!!!

Even though we are redeemed people, without realising our error, we rely mainly on our self-activity!!! We elevate ourselves to the level of God. ☹️

1 Cor. 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord ***is one spirit.***

A believer who has been born again of the Spirit and of the Word is one spirit with the Lord. In other words, our spirit and Jesus' spirit is one and the same spirit. Our spirit is not like His!

1 Cor. 12:13 For ***by one Spirit*** we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and ***we were all made to drink of one Spirit.***

Eph. 2:18 [T]hrough Him we both have our access ***in one Spirit*** to the Father.

Eph. 4:4 *There is* one body and ***one Spirit***, just as also you

were called in one hope of your calling;

Jhn. 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man loves me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and ***we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.***

Again, a believer who has been born again of the Spirit and of the Word has Jesus living in him as well as the Father.

1 Cor. 1:30 But of [God] are you *in Christ Jesus*,

Col. 3:3 [Y]ou are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

The Lord Jesus revealed this state to Paul. We see that this state was Paul's natural state.

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith ***of*** the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

20. Paul says, "I am crucified with Christ ... That's the old Paul out!!!

21. Then he says, "..... Nevertheless, I live." ... That's the new Paul in Christ: a living, thinking, willing, feeling, battling human. A real person.

22. But listen: then he corrects himself and adds, "Yet not I, but Christ lives in me." He could very easily have said, "Nevertheless I live and Christ lives in me" - as if Christ lived near him or close by him.

23. But you see, he replaced self by Christ. That's the point. He said, "Nevertheless, I live - excuse me, the real I isn't I

at all, it is Christ.” In other words, your other self is Christ. It is not you, it’s Christ.

24. There are two selves joined in one; and the other self is Christ. That’s why it’s indivisible. That’s why it’s ridiculous to look around or above and try to find Christ.

You don’t try to find yourself, do you? Wherever you go, you are there, aren’t you? However you feel about it, you can’t escape yourself. And your other self is Christ; you can’t escape Him either!

In the grace of God, ***Jesus Christ tied Himself to us***. Isn’t that amazing? You can’t escape Him. Where you go, He goes. He’s your other self; He’s not you.

You’re you; He’s He. You contain Him; He motivates you. And you learn the habits of this ***abiding life***. He is the one who lives it. You are His means of expressing Himself. Motivation by Jesus Christ; that’s the eternal life which we who know Him have already begun!

The abiding life!!!

The abiding life is something that very few Christians ever enter. ***This has huge negative repercussions***. Only those living the abiding life will ever get any rewards in heaven!!!

Let us see how this works.

1 Cor. 13:1 - 3 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love (***agape***), I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have ***agape***, I am nothing. **3** And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*,

and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have **agape**, it profits me nothing.

In other words, unless I agape, which we have seen is impossible, I am only a noisy gong, I am nothing and all that I do does not profit me at all!!!

The Word always confirms itself. Let us see!

1 Cor. 3:12 - 15 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw: **13** each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. **14** ***If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.*** **15** If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

We see that we will only be rewarded if our works are gold, silver or precious stones. Taken in conjunction with I Corinthians 13 we see that only acts of **agape** will be rewarded!!!

It is therefore no wonder that Paul says in Hebrews chapter four:-

Heb. 4:1 - 3 Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. **2** For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. **3** For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, "AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Paul says that we should fear. A strange Christian experience! Why? Because only he who has entered into God's rest, only he who has learned **to abide** will have God expressing Himself through him!!!

So, I can never love my wife in the way that God demands. What if she betrays me with someone else? My natural limited human love could never forgive her. However, if I am abiding in Christ, He is not only able to forgive her, but He earnestly desires to forgive her!

Once we have come to understand that our basic function is the **constant recognition of Another, of Christ**, the whole of life is transformed. It isn't a matter of continually allowing Him to come into your life, because we have already received Him. He lives in us and we live in Him. So the Normal Christian Life is the constant recognition of Another, of Christ.

Another, Christ, is the functioning one.

We seek more power to be able to perform miracles. We will never receive that power. However, if we constantly recognise Christ in us, He will do the miracles through us!!!!

Christ is the power of God

1 Cor. 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; **24** But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God**, and the wisdom of God.

Brother Andrew, Laubach, Teresa of Avila, and thousands of others have come into this experience. Our Father is waiting for us, and constantly encouraging us to enter into this life, because He earnestly wants to reward us.

Heb. 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him.

Col. 3:3 [Y]ou are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

1 Jhn. 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in him, and he in God.

1 Jhn. 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwells in love dwells in God and God in him.

Here we see again the truth that we have been perusing. He who dwells in love, dwells in God, for God is love!!!!

Once we've seen this, we see that He is the illimitable One. Then we relax and say, "***This is what life is basically: Another living His life in me.***" We've got our key to everything. Every problem becomes an opportunity. Every tough spot becomes a chance to enjoy the luxury of seeing Him deliver us out of it. And you welcome such spots.

Humanity which is not indwelt by Deity is subhuman!!! This is why we have to learn to discern between the spirit and the soul. Jesus lives in us. His spirit and our spirit are one spirit, so only that which comes from our spirit brings life.

2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Jhn. 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

These two verses express the same thing!!

Now, a most important note!!!!

We cannot share the “love of God” unless we have experienced it. In **Eph. 3:19** Paul prays for the Ephesians that they may “*know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge.*”

The love of Christ is beyond human understanding. People who have been exposed to it say that they were physically not able to endure it for long!!!

So, we know one thing. It is God’s will for each and every believer to experience the love of Christ, which is obviously the love of God. Therefore we can earnestly seek it with all our hearts.

In **Rom. 5:5** Paul says that “love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

These seem to be two opposing views, but they are obviously not. I know that I have changed drastically since I was born again. I have a great deal of empathy and compassion for people who are suffering. However, I have this yearning inside of me, which I believe is from the Holy Spirit, to really experience the love of Christ, which passes all understanding.

Chapter 14 – Water Baptism Including Eternal Security

Water Baptism is a multifaceted "ritual" that is much deeper than any of us can imagine. It has several functions. Below we merely list some of them, as the object of this paper is to delve into baptism's connection with eternal security. These functions are:-

25. Many see it as a command to be obeyed. It is not explained in any depth in any one place in the scriptures. Act. 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Paul was also commanded to be baptised. Act. 22:16 "..now why are you waiting? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Act. 9:17 "And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto you in the way as you came, has sent me, that you might receive your sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost." Act. 9:18 "... immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight immediately, and arose, and was baptised."
26. Baptism is a statement that we died, were buried and rose again with the Lord Jesus. **Rom. 6:4** "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."
27. Baptism is also our inauguration into the priesthood. Our Lord Jesus was not a priest and so could not officiate in that capacity until He had been baptised. That was why He was baptised by John. He could not explain to John about the new priesthood because John would not have

understood. **Mat. 3:13 - 15** "Then came Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptised of you, and you come to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becomes us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him."

28. Baptism also represents a ritual cleansing from sin and defilement. When Paul was to be baptised, Ananias said to him:- Act. 22:16 "And now why are you waiting? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Now the bible is very clear. Only the blood of Jesus can cleanse us from sin, nothing else can, especially not water. So, what did Ananias mean? In the Old Testament, ritual cleansing was present in every aspect of life.

In Numbers chapter 19 the Lord speaks to Israel about a red heifer, which they had to slaughter.

Num. 19:1 - 9 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 2 "This is the statute of the law which the LORD has commanded, saying, 'Speak to the sons of Israel that they bring you an unblemished red heifer in which is no defect *and* on which a yoke has never been placed. 3 'You shall give it to Eleazar the priest, and it shall be brought outside the camp and be slaughtered in his presence. 4 'Next Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and sprinkle some of its blood toward the front of the tent of meeting seven times. 5 'Then the heifer shall be burned in his sight; its hide and its flesh and its blood, with its refuse, shall be burned. 6 'The priest shall take cedar wood and hyssop and scarlet *material* and cast it into the midst of the burning heifer. 7 'The priest shall then wash his clothes and bathe his body in water,

and afterward come into the camp, but the priest shall be unclean until evening. 8 'The one who burns it shall also wash his clothes in water and bathe his body in water, and shall be unclean until evening. 9 'Now a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and deposit them outside the camp in a clean place, and the congregation of the sons of *Israel shall keep it as water to remove impurity; it is purification from sin.*

Here again we find the statement that ***it is purification from sin!*** Obviously only the blood of the goat that was slaughtered on the Day of Atonement purified from sin. (A shadow of the blood of Jesus that was to be spilt!) So, what is it saying? It purifies from the defilement of sin! Sin, even when it has been cleansed, leaves a stain on the conscience. The sinner knows that he has sinned. His conscience condemns him. Ritual cleansing purifies the conscience. It cleanses the conscience from defilement.

Clearly, if this is the case, it must be addressed also in the New Testament! So, let us see what it says!

Heb. 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having

our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and

our bodies washed with pure water.

Here we see that we are cleansed from an evil conscience **AND** our bodies washed with pure water. We find confirmation of this in Hebrews chapter 9. Speaking of the Old Testament rituals, both those of cleansing with the blood and of those of cleansing with water, It says:-

Heb. 9:8 - 9 The Holy Spirit *is* signifying that the way into the holy place had not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle was still standing, **9** which *is* a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices were offered which ***could not make the worshiper perfect in conscience,***

Heb. 10:1 - 2 The old system under the Law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship. **2** If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped, for the worshipers would have been purified once for all time, and ***their feelings of guilt would have disappeared.*** (NLT) Their consciences would have been cleansed.

Heb. 10:2 If there were worshipers who already have their sins washed away and ***their consciences made clear,*** there would not be any need to go on offering sacrifices. (CEV)

Heb. 10:2 For if this had been possible, would there not have been an end of those offerings, because the worshippers would have been made completely clean and ***would have been no longer conscious of sins?*** (BBE)

Heb. 10:2 Otherwise, would they (the Old Testament sacrifices) not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, ***would no longer have had consciousness of sins?*** (NASB)

Here it states clearly that the Old Testament rituals, both the blood sacrifices and the water purifications could ***not purify the worshippers from the consciousness of sin!***

We find more confirmation in the first letter of Peter.

1 Pet. 3:21 [B]aptism also now saves us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but ***the answer of a good conscience*** toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

We see here very clearly that baptism, among other things, ***cleanses the conscience from the defilement of sin***. A person who is baptised will not be conscious of sin; He will be conscious of righteousness. (See Chapter 7 – Spirit, Soul & Body (I Ths. 5:23) above.)

Water Baptism and Eternal Security

At the time when the twelve spies were sent into the land, ten returned with an evil report. Of all the men who were twenty years old and upwards, how many entered into the Promised Land? If your answer is two (2) you are wrong (Joshua & Caleb). The correct answer is at least several hundred and two (say 202). Surprise!!

The Children of Israel refused to enter the Promised Land. God was angry (Old Testament concept) and so He judged them. However there were several parties who were not judged. Joshua and Caleb, because they brought back a good report and many Levites and priests. However, it is impossible to determine the exact number of the latter. i.e. the number of Levites and priests.

This is how it works. First of all the judgment was imposed on the tribes only. The Levites and priests were excluded from the judgment. Here is the proof!

Num. 14:29-38 "Your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and **ALL THAT WERE NUMBERED OF YOU, ACCORDING TO YOUR WHOLE NUMBER, FROM TWENTY YEARS OLD AND UPWARD**, who have murmured against Me, you shall certainly not come into the land which I swore to make you live in, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. But your little ones, which you said should be a prey, I will bring them in and they shall know the land which you have despised. But as for you, your bodies shall fall in this wilderness. And your sons shall feed in the wilderness forty years and bear your fornications, until your dead bodies have wasted in the wilderness. According to the number of the days in which you searched the land, forty days, each day for a year you shall bear your iniquities, forty years; and you shall know My alienation. I Yahweh have spoken; I will surely do it to this entire evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. They shall be destroyed in this wilderness, and there they shall die. And the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up an evil report upon the land, even those men that brought up the evil report upon the land died by the plague before Yahweh. But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, of the men that went to spy out the land, lived."

The key is in the statement in bold letters above i.e. **all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward.**

Now the scriptures are very clear on this issue. Only those who were numbered from twenty years old and upward would die in the wilderness. So, who wasn't numbered? Let's see!

Num. 1:47 - 49 "But the Levites, according to the tribe of their fathers, were not numbered among them [the children of Israel]. For Yahweh had spoken to Moses saying, Only you shall not number the tribe of Levi, neither take the sum of them among the sons of Israel."

The thing that triggered my understanding was when I realised that Eleazar, who had been inducted into the priesthood together with his father, Aaron, and his three brothers at Mt. Sinai, was the one who led Israel into the Promised Land together with Joshua. In terms of priests, it appears that a priest must have been at least thirty years old in order to officiate as a priest. **Num. 4:47** "From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that came to do the service of the ministry, and the service of the burden in the tabernacle of the congregation." It is not possible to prove the minimum age of a priest conclusively from the scriptures, but Numbers 1: 47 and Numbers 14:29 – 38 is sufficient proof of our statement that all those who were not counted from twenty years old and upwards were allowed into Canaan.

So, what set them apart? **Baptism!!** Who are all God's people? Only those who live by faith! What does Paul say to us concerning the definition of a Jew? **Rom. 2:28 - 29** "For he is not a Jew, who is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." (Exactly the opposite of the State of Israel's definition of a Jew!) So, all the people means all those whom God considered His. Joshua & Caleb were not baptised, but their faith saved them; two out of 600 000 or 0.00033%.

When the Tabernacle was sanctified, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar were baptised!! **Exd. 28:1 & 29:4** And you [Moses] shall take to yourself Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the sons of Israel, so that he may minister to Me in the priest's office: Aaron and Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. And you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall **wash them with water**.

However that leaves all the rest of the Levites! What does the scripture say? In **Exd. 19** we read about the water of separation. In **Num. 19:11 – 13** "He who touches the dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days. He shall purify himself with it on the third day, and on the seventh day he shall be clean. But if he does not purify himself the third day, then the seventh day he shall not be clean. Whoever touches the dead body of any man, and does not purify himself, defiles the Tabernacle of Yahweh. And that soul shall be cut off from Israel. Because **the water of separation was not sprinkled upon him**, he shall be unclean. His uncleanness is still upon him." This water of separation is also called the water of purification. **Num. 19:9** "And a man that clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: **it is a purification for sin**." (Here again we have that "ambiguous" phrase, **it is a purification for sin!! Num. 8:6 - 7** "Take the Levites from among the sons of Israel, and purify them!" Let them shave all their flesh and wash their clothes, and make themselves clean." And so the Levites were baptised. (Note they were sprinkled! ☺)

We see in the following scriptures that the Levites and the priests were not even put to the test. Of the twelve spies who

were sent out, not one was a Levite or a priest. **Num. 13:4 - 20** And these were their tribes:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Of the tribe of | Reuben |
| 2 | Of the tribe of | Simeon |
| 3 | Of the tribe of | Judah |
| 4 | Of the tribe of | Issachar |
| 5 | Of the tribe of | Ephraim |
| 6 | Of the tribe of | Benjamin |
| 7 | Of the tribe of | Zebulun |
| 8 | Of the tribe of | Joseph |
| 9 | Of the tribe of | Dan |
| 10 | Of the tribe of | Asher |
| 11 | Of the tribe of | Naphtali |
| 12 | Of the tribe of | Gad |

These were the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Joshua. And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, Go up this way, southward, and go up into the mountain. And see the land, what it is, and the people that live in it, whether it is strong or weak, few or many. And see what the land is that they live in, whether it is good or bad; and what cities they dwell in, whether in tents or in strongholds; And what the land is, whether fat or lean, whether there is wood in it or not. And be of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of first ripe grapes."

Neither hide nor hair of a Levite or a Priest!! ***They were even spared the test!!!*** And so it is with those of us who

have been baptised. Eternally secure in the Father's everlasting arms. Note 100% of the Levites and the Priests still living entered the Promised Land except Aaron, because of his disobedience!! That Aaron is in heaven there is no doubt. And so it also happens with all those who have been baptised but who rebel. They pay their price in this world, not in the next, just like those Corinthians who abused the Lord's Supper!! **1 Cor. 11:29 - 32** "[He] who eats and drinks [of the Lord's Supper] unworthily eats and drinks condemnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body! For this cause many among you are weak and sickly, and **many sleep**. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. **But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.**" Sleep is a euphemism for death when it applies to believers. **Jhn. 11:11 - 14** [Jesus] said to them, Our friend Lazarus **sleeps**. But I go so that I may awaken him **out of sleep**. Then His disciples said, Lord, if he sleeps, he will get well. But Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He had spoken of taking rest in sleep. **Then Jesus said to them plainly, Lazarus is dead.**"

There is also of course a reference to this in the New Testament. In **Mar. 16:16** He that believes and is baptized **shall** be saved; but he that believes not, shall be damned. Here we see two groups of people;

1. Those who believe and are baptized – they SHALL be saved. This SHALL is a fact, it is not purely a statement of a future event. (The Greek verb “shall be saved” is in the future indicative passive third person singular, which means **MOOD of CERTAINTY** = simply states a thing as being a FACT.)
2. Those who do not believe – They SHALL be damned

Now there is of course another group which is not mentioned.

3. ***Those who believe and are not baptized.*** This group may be much smaller than it has ever been, but from the time of the reformation almost all believers were not baptized. So what about them? Their salvation depends on their own conduct, just like Joshua and Caleb.

Dear Saints, our salvation is secure once we have been baptized, but not before. After we are baptized, the responsibility for our salvation then rests with God!!! Isn't that a comforting thought!!!

Chapter 15 – Baptism in the Holy Spirit – Power (Act. 1:8)

Jesus promised His disciples the Holy Spirit before He was crucified.

Jhn. 7:38 – 39 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" **39** But this He spoke of ***the Spirit***, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for ***the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.***

We see here that the Holy Spirit would be like rivers of living water flowing from our innermost beings. However, this would only happen after Jesus was glorified. After He had risen from the dead!!!

This is indeed what happened. Once Jesus had risen from the dead He gave the Holy Spirit to His disciples.

Jhn. 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

However, after this, just before He was to ascend to heaven He told them:-

Act. 1:8 [Y]ou will receive power ***when the Holy Spirit has come upon you***; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

This was an additional promise!!! Once the Holy Spirit had come upon them they would receive power!!! But they had already received the Holy Spirit!!!

This latter blessing was in addition to the blessing they received when Jesus had breathed upon them. This latter reception is described as the Baptism in the Holy Spirit!

Luk. 3:16 John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; ***He (the Messiah) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.***

Jhn. 1:33 "I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, ***this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.***'

On the Day of Pentecost the believers were all baptised in the Holy Spirit, according to Jesus' promise.

Act. 2:1 - 4 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. **4** And ***they were all filled with the Holy Spirit*** and began to ***speak with other tongues***, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

So, we see two occasions where the believers received the Holy Spirit! However, only on the second occasion does it say that the believers were ***filled with the Holy Spirit*** and ***began to speak in other tongues.***

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is quite distinct from the reception of the Holy Spirit that everyone receives when they are born again of the Spirit and of the Word.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is accompanied by speaking in tongues.

The first Gentiles to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, were Cornelius and his household.

Act. 10:44 - 46 While Peter was still speaking these words, *the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.* **45** All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. **46** For ***they were hearing them speaking with tongues*** and exalting God.

Act. 19:1 - 6 It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. **2** He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they *said* to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." **3** And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." **4** Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." **5** When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and ***they began speaking with tongues*** and prophesying.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is usually conferred upon new believers by having another believer laying their hands on them, usually a believer who has this ministry or this gift.

Now, what we do need to understand is that there are two types of speaking in tongues.

In I Corinthians Paul says that he speaks in tongues more than all the Corinthians put together.

1 Cor. 14:14 - 18 [*If I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays*, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 What is *the outcome* then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; ***I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.*** 16 Otherwise if you bless in the spirit *only*, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? 17 For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified. 18 I thank God; ***I speak in tongues more than you all;***

Here Paul is talking about the gift that ***every believer receives*** once he has been baptised in the Holy Spirit; the gift of being able to speak or pray or sing in the Spirit.

There is also another gift; the gift of tongues that the believer is to use in any gathering of the Saints. There is however, a proviso. There must be someone in the meeting, usually someone else, who is to bring an interpretation of the tongue. This is one of the nine gifts of the Spirit mentioned in I Corinthians chapter 12.

1 Cor. 12:7 - 11 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8** For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **10** and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another ***various kinds of tongues***, and to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

In I Corinthians 14, Paul says that we should earnestly desire these spiritual gifts.

1 Cor. 14:1 Pursue love, yet desire earnestly the spiritual gifts,

Without the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we do not have the power to be Jesus' witnesses!!! So, it is incumbent upon every believer to earnestly seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Appendix 1

One Died for all (Rom. 5:12 – 21)

The Two Representative Men, Adam and Christ, Contrasted:

- Condemnation and Death by Adam to All in Him, meaning every human being.
- Justification and Life by Christ to All in Him, meaning every Christian who has been born again of the Spirit and of Water. Verses 12-19.
- By the Law, Sin Became Trespass; but
- GRACE TRANSCENDED ALL! Verse 20.
- Grace Now Reigns, "Through Jesus Christ our Lord." Verse 21.

In verses 12 to 21, God goes back on the history and state of human sin, (which in Chapters 1:21 to 3:20 have been before us) to Adam, as our representative head, who stood for us, and whose sin became condemnation and death to us; and shows us Christ, as the other representative Man (whom Adam prefigured), by His act of death on the cross bringing us justification and life. The emphasis in this great passage is in each case upon the fact that the ***act of the representative (Adam or Jesus)***, and not of the one represented, ***brought the result to pass***.

GOD'S PLAN: THE "REIGN OF GRACE" THROUGH CHRIST

Rom. 5:12-21

THE TWO MEN

ADAM &

CHRIST—VERSE 14

THE TWO ACTS – Disobedience & Obedience

ADAM — one trespass: Verses 12, 15, 17, 18, 19.

CHRIST—one righteous act (on the cross) :Verse 18.

THE TWO RESULTS

By ADAM—Condemnation, guilt, death: Verses 15,16,18,19.

By CHRIST—Justification, life, kingship: Verses 17,18,19.

THE TWO DIFFERENCES - In degree

Verse 15 (God the Creator's grace by Christ, abounds way beyond the sin of the creature, Adam.)

In kind or operation, Verse 16 (***One sin***, by Adam — ***condemnation and the reign of death.***)

(Many sins on Christ - justification and "reigning in life" for those accepting God's, grace by Him.)

THE TWO KINGS

SIN—reigning through Death: Verse 17.

GRACE—reigning through Righteousness: Verse 21.

THE TWO ABUNDANCES

Verse 17

OF GRACE

OF THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

THE TWO CONTRASTED STATES

CONDEMNED MEN, SLAVES OF DEATH BY ADAM

JUSTIFIED MEN, REIGNING IN LIFE BY CHRIST

Rom. 5:12 - 21 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned -- **13** for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. **14** Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. **15** But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. **16** The gift is not like *that which came* through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment *arose* from one *transgression* resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift *arose* from many transgressions resulting in justification. **17** For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. **18** So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. **19** For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the

many will be made righteous. **20** The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, **21** so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Great Doctrine of the Two Men

In Chapter 2 – God’s Will for Us (**Rom. 5:17, 8:37**), Chapter 3 - Scriptural Exegesis (II Tim. 2:15), and Chapter 4 – Faith (**Heb. 11**), we see the fact of ***universal human guilt***, that all thus are "***falling short of God’s glory***"(which is what we need to be saved); and we see Christ set forth by God as a "propitiation through faith in His blood."

In Chapter 5 – Crucified with Christ, we find that believers ***were declared righteous***; and seen connected with a Risen Christ.

In the first part of Chapter 6 – What Jesus Procured by His Suffering, Death, Burial and Resurrection, we see the blessed results of this "justification by faith."

When we come to **Rom. 5.12**, a new phase or view of our salvation appears.

The two men, Adam and Christ, with their distinct ***federal or representative consequences***, are before us. It is no longer what we have done — our sins that is in view, but ***the one trespass of Adam*** that is in view. And it is ***the work of Christ, also, looked at as an "Adam,"—His "righteous act" of death***; with its effect of justification for us.

So now we look back to Adam's act. It is his act that made us all sinners, not our own deeds! Even David knew this. **Psm. 51:5** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. It is not our own deeds that made us sinners, but Adam's! In the same way, it is not our own righteous acts that make us righteous, but Christ's one righteous act of sacrificing Himself sinless on the cross!!!

There is no more direct statement in Scripture concerning justification than we find in verse **19** "Through the obedience of the One (Christ Jesus) shall the many be constituted righteous [before God]."

It is true that up to verse 11 the question has been one of sins rather than the thing sin itself. It is true also that in verse 18, in the expression justification of life, the resurrection - side of salvation is before us. But we need to mark in the great passage from verse 12 to verse 21, that ***God, grounds our justification wholly in the work of Another than ourselves, even Christ***; showing also the incidental place that the Law had — "that the trespass might abound"; thus opening the flood -gates of Grace!

The key word of this great passage is "**one**." You will find it as follows (**14 times** in all) :

"One man" — "one man" — "one man" — verses 12, 15, 19. "The one" — "the one" — "the One" — verses 15, 17, 19. "One" — "one" — "one" (trespass) "one" (righteous act) — verses 16 (twice), 18 (twice).

"Through — one act of righteousness" — verse 18. "Through — the obedience of THE ONE" — verse 19.

"Through — one trespass" — verses 15, 17, 18. "Through — one man's disobedience" — verse 19. "Through — one act of

righteousness" — verse 18. "Through — the obedience of THE ONE" — verse 19

It will never do to go about counting ourselves justified in the sense merely of having our own trespasses, those we have committed, forgiven; ***for this would amount to counting ourselves as innocent before we personally sinned***, and to have become guilty merely because we personally sinned. But this is to forget that we all were made sinners '***by Adam's act***, — not our own. Nor does this mean that we got a "sinful nature" from our "first parents": "By nature" we were, indeed, "children of wrath," Paul tells us in **Eph. 2**; and David declares: "In sin did my mother conceive me." But **Rom. 5** does not talk of a nature of sin received by us from Adam, but of our being made guilty by his act. We were so connected with the first Adam that we did not have to wait to be born, or to have a sinful nature; but when Adam, our representative, acted, we acted. Verse 19 plainly says, "Through the one man's disobedience the many were set down as sinners", while the preceding verse says the principle was, through one trespass — unto all men to condemnation.

"Condemnation" is a forensic word; it belongs to the court, not to the birth-chamber.

The same Divine principle is illustrated in the fact that "through Abraham even Levi," Abraham's great-grandson, 'who receives tithes, has paid tithes, for he was yet in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him" (**Heb. 7:9**). God says of Levi, who was not yet born, whose father was not yet born, whose grandfather (Isaac) was not yet born: "LEVI PAID TITHES!"

The great truth of **Rom. 5.12 t-21** is that a representative acted, involving those connected with him.

We see immediately how Paul in a seven-fold way insists on the fact that **Adam's act of sin** affected his race:-

29. Through one man sin entered into the world (vs. 12a).
30. So in that way death passed unto all men, for that all sinned, [when Adam sinned] (vs. 12b).
31. By the trespass of the one the many died (vs. 15). All men in other words!
32. The judgment came out of one [trespass] unto condemnation (vs. 16).
33. By the trespass of the one, death reigned-as-king through the one (vs. 17).
34. Through one trespass [the effect was] towards all men to condemnation (vs. 18).

Through the one man's disobedience the many were set down as [or made to become] sinners (vs. 19).

On the other hand, as regards Christ, we find:

1. That He is also an Adam — a representative or federal Man who acts for all, and in whom all in Him are seen. Adam is called a figure [Greek: typos — type] of Him that was to come — Christ (vs. 14).

2. That by the One Man Jesus Christ, the grace of God, and the free gift [by that grace] did abound unto the many much beyond the evil results of Adam's sin (vs. 15).

3. That through our Lord's one righteous act [His death on the cross] the free-gift goes out to all men to justification of life, just as through [Adam's] one trespass the judgment came to all men to condemnation (vs. 18).

4. That through the obedience [unto death] of the One [Christ] the many [those who received the gift] shall be set down righteous [before God] (vs. 19).

That those who receive the abundance of [God's] grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign-as-kings in life through the One, Jesus Christ, — much beyond death's reigning - through the one [Adam] (vs. 17).

Appendix 2 – Are Christians Obligated to Keep the Biblical Feasts? Should Christians Keep the Biblical Feasts? (This is not an exhaustive study of the feasts.)

The Biblical Feasts are all prophetic foretellings of Jesus' earthly ministry. Paul says they are a shadow of things to come. They are not the real thing. The question therefore is, "Should we celebrate the shadow (the Old Testament feasts), or the real thing? (Biblical feasts and Jewish feasts are not always synonymous. I will say more about the Jewish feasts vs Biblical feasts below.)

Col 2:16 - 17 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: **17** Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

1. Feast of Tabernacles
2. Passover
3. Feast of Unleavened Bread.
4. Pentecost (50th)/Feast of Weeks
5. Feast of Trumpets/Rosh HaShanah (Head of the Year)
6. Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur

1. **Feast of Tabernacles** – This feast foretold of the fact that Jesus would tabernacle among men.

Jhn. 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

In the Old Testament, the feast of tabernacles celebrated the Israelites journey through the wilderness with the presence of God in their midst.

Now which of the two events,

a) God's (Jesus') presence with the Israelites during their journey in the desert, in the tabernacle or

b) Jesus (God) literally tabernacling with man on the earth

are the most important, most holy? Obviously the latter! If we celebrate the former, while neglecting the latter, what kind of message are we giving to Jesus? However, while celebrating Jesus' birth on earth, we can obviously remember the former. The Israelites journey through the desert pales in comparison with Jesus tabernacling among men!

2. **Passover** – The Passover foretells Jesus' death on the cross. The night before the Israelites left Egypt they were instructed to sacrifice a lamb and put the blood on the doorposts of their houses and then the angel of death would pass over them. It says nothing of the people inside the houses. We know from the Bible that the Israelites rebelled against God in the desert from day one! They were not sinless.

In the same way, when Jesus died, the sins of the whole world were forgiven. Many people are unwilling to acknowledge this. They are religious, not willing to believe what the Bible says. Here is what the Bible says on the issue.

2 Cor. 5:19 God was in Christ and He reconciled the world to Himself, not counting their sins against them.

So, on passover, we celebrate Jesus death on the cross and the shedding of His blood, which cleansed all the people of the world from their sins!!! (This obviously does not mean that everyone is going to heaven.) [See Page 43b!](#)

Again, the deliverance of the Israelites from the angel of death pales in comparison with Jesus' finished work on the cross. So, which of the two shall we celebrate?

3. **The Feast of Unleavened Bread** – This feast celebrates the fact that sin has been removed/forgiven and the recipients are now sin free in God's eyes! Leaven in the Bible represents sin! No sacrifice on the altar was to contain leaven! (yeast). So, following on directly from the passover, unleavened bread was to be eaten for seven days, representing the fact that the passover sacrifice removed all sin!

I quote again **Num. 23:21**, [God] has not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither has He seen perverseness in Israel: This after forty years of rebellion in the desert!

For us as believers, if we want to celebrate this feast , we celebrate the fact that all our sins have been forgiven, past, present and future.

4. **Pentecost (50th)/Feast of Weeks** or Shavu'ot as it is called in Hebrew.

Pentecost occurs 50 days after Passover. According to Jewish fables, it occurred when the 10 commandments were given at mount Sinai. However, there is absolutely no

scriptural proof to support this fact. (The rabbis love making up stories.)

At the Biblical feast, two loaves of LEAVENED bread were waved before the Lord. (Remember that leaven represents sin.) These two loaves represented the Israelites and the Gentiles. It represents the fact that the middle wall of partition has been broken down.

We know that Pentecost was the outpouring of Holy Spirit, 50 days after Jesus was crucified. A little later when Peter was sharing the Gospel with Cornelius, Holy Spirit spontaneously descended on Cornelius and His family.

5. **Feast of Trumpets** – The Feast of Trumpets has not yet been fulfilled. It foretells the rapture.

In Jewish tradition, they call this Rosh HaShana, the head of the year. However, Paul links this feast to the rapture.

1 Cor. 15:50 - 53 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **AT THE LAST TRUMPET**; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

6. **Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur** - The Day of Atonement is the second feast, which has not yet been fulfilled.

The Biblical feast was the day on which a sacrifice of a goat removed the sins of the people. **Lev 23:27 - 28** On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the day of atonement

(satisfaction or reparation for a wrong or injury; amends); it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble your souls (meaning to fast) and present an offering by fire to the LORD. **28** You shall not do any work on this same day, for it is a day of atonement, to make atonement on your behalf before the LORD your God.

It is a foundational truth of Christianity that Christ Jesus died on the cross for our sins. In this way He fulfilled the old covenant sacrificial system, reconciled us to God, and changed our lives forever. This is the doctrine of the Atonement.

1 Cor. 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

However, the feast of the Day of Atonement will be fulfilled when Jesus returns to the Jewish people at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Zec 12:10 - 14 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. **11** "In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. **12** "The land will mourn, every family by itself; the family of the house of David by itself and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself and their wives by themselves; **13** the family of the house of Levi by itself and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself and

their wives by themselves; **14** all the families that remain, every family by itself and their wives by themselves.

Jewish Feasts versus Biblical Feasts

The liturgy, the order of the Jewish Feasts, called Seder in Hebrew, was determined by rabbis over many years. Jewish feasts coincide with and are named after Biblical Feasts, but their celebration is often infused with other spiritual elements.

Here is a short list of some of the rabbis who were instrumental in putting together the liturgies connected with the feasts.

Joseph Caro, 1488—1575. His personal diary *Maggid Meisharim* is not just the theoretical, but the explicit mystical nature of the writing which include topics like: ‘secrets of creation’, the ‘revelation of Eliyahu HaNavi (Elijah the prophet)’, ‘resurrection of the dead’, ‘reincarnation’ and ‘dream interpretation’. It spans fifty years of conversations with *the maggid (heavenly messenger) who also used Caro as an instrument, speaking with a disembodied voice.* The “Ari” (Rabbi Isaac Luria) and Shlomo Molko also had personal messengers. Tradition states that R' Karo wrote the *Shulkhan Aruch* with the help of an angel, *the maggid*, in the location where the Yosef Karo Synagogue is now located. He also wrote it by automatic writing. In other words, his mind was not involved in the process whatsoever.

Karo and Alkabetz made a pact to study Torah for the entire night with their students, reverently chanting the holy words. At midnight, a disembodied voice began to speak through Karo:

Rabbi Isaac Luria, also known as the ARI came to Tzfat in 1530 from Egypt. He was one of the most famous Kabbalists of all times, and while in Tzfat, he learned new Kabbalistic insights *while studying with “Elijah the Prophet”* in a cave in the synagogue located above the cemetery - today named the ARI Sephardic Synagogue. *(This Elijah the Prophet is a maggid that masquerades as the prophet Elijah.)*

Rabbi Shlomo Alkabetz is best known for composing the Lecha Dodi song which is sung every Friday night to welcome in the Sabbath. R' Alkabetz was a Kabbalist, and he wrote the Lecha Dodi in accordance with the Kabbalistic belief that, during the week, *each one of a Jew's actions creates an angel*. On Shabbat, these angels join the individual as he brings in the Sabbath Queen, and Lecha Dodi, "Come my Beloved" reflects this.

Appendix 3 – A Biblical View of the Holocaust

The Holocaust – A Biblical View (?)

An understanding of the events of the holocaust and God's role in it can only be understood from a biblical perspective. This requires an examination of relevant principles in scripture, together with the view that He regards the Jewish people as His servants.

The God of Israel is a God of love, a God of mercy and compassion and a God of lovingkindness, the events in the Bible notwithstanding. If we cannot see Him in this light, we will never understand Him. God is the righteous judge, but He will always seek ways of mitigating (or lessening) His judgements. Psm 50:23 says ***“He who sacrifices thank-offerings honours me, and prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God.”*** In other words, no matter what our predicament, even if self-inflicted or as a result of God's judgement, if we honour Him through the sacrifices of thanks-giving, He **WILL** give us a way of escape. However, the corollary is that we will need to hear from Him, and obey His voice.

This aspect connects us to one of God's primary requirements from His servants. They are to hear His voice and obey whatever He says. From this aspect of God we can see clearly that He desires a personal, intimate relationship with each individual. We can see this from the Bible very clearly.

Exd 23:21-22 Beware of Him [the Angel of the Lord] , and obey His voice, provoke him not; for He will not pardon your transgressions: for My name (YHWH) is in Him, and if you indeed obey His voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto your enemies, and an adversary unto your adversaries.^[1]

Deu 13:4 You shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey His voice , and you shall serve him, and cleave unto him.^[2]

There are two events, which clearly demonstrate these aspects of God; His love, mercy, compassion, and lovingkindness and His requirement that His servants obey His voice.

- 1 The Babylonian Exile (was avoidable by each individual Jew, had he submitted himself to Babylonian rule, in accordance with the voice of the Lord. In this way, the majority of the Jews could have escaped the exile, had they obeyed the voice of God.)**

After Israel had been in the land for 800 years (from their entry in Canaan in 1400 B.C.E. until the time of the Babylonian exile in 600 B.C.E.) and had continued stubbornly in their sin, apostasy and idolatry, the time of reckoning arrived. Despite this, God, in His mercy gave every opportunity to Judah to repent, in which case the judgement would be postponed (See the article on “Judgement Postponed -Psalm 106”). God spoke to Judah through Jeremiah the prophet saying, ***“If you will repent, O Israel, says the LORD, return unto me: and if you***

will put away your abominations out of my sight, then you shall not be sent into exile.” (Jer 4:1). However the Lord continues, if you will not repent, “I will bring evil from the north [the Babylonians], and a great destruction (Jer 4:6). However, REMEMBER, that we serve a merciful God, not a God of vengeance fire and brimstone. Therefore, the Lord speaks: firstly to Benjamin. If you will hear His voice, He says, *“O you children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem.”* (Jer 6:1) The Lord tells them how to escape the coming judgement!!!

Again the Lord speaks [this time to Judah] and says, *“Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people.”* (Jer 7:23) He goes on to say, *“He that remains in this city shall die by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goes out, and goes over to the Chaldeans....he shall live, and his life shall be unto him for a prey.”* (Jer 21:9) Again the Lord speaks through Jeremiah. *“I spake also to Zedekiah king of Judah according to all these words, saying, Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live.”* (Jer 21:12)

The Lord gives Judah a way out. He says that if they submit to the Chaldeans everything will be all right. However, if they resist, they will be crushed. We all know the story. They resist. The Chaldeans come and conquer the city, take the king into captivity, but leave the city and the temple intact. Again the Lord warns them. They refuse to hear and rebel against the king of Babylon. He sends an army and suppresses the rebellion, but leaves the city and the temple intact. A third time they rebel. This time the king sends to

Jerusalem, destroys the city and the temple. He has been very, very patient with Judah.

In other words, if Judah had submitted to the king of Babylon, everything would have been fine. They would have remained in the land, except for some of the ruling class, but they would have been ruled for 70 years by the Babylonians and then set free by the Lord. But, they did not obey His voice and suffered the consequences.

Judah suffered untold hardship and many, many of God's people died, men women & children, contrary to God's loving, compassionate, merciful will, because they did not obey the voice of the Lord.

2 The Premature death of King Josiah, the most outstanding king of Judah outside of King David. (He died because He did not obey the voice of the Lord.)

The Lord gives King Josiah an unconditional promise. He promises Josiah that he will die in peace, because of his zeal for the Lord and the reform that he undertook. ***“Behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace.”*** (II Chr 34:28) However, despite the unconditional promise, Josiah dies in a war with Pharaoh Necho. Why? Pharaoh Necho tells King Josiah not to fight with him because the Lord has sent him on the Lord's business. Josiah does not believe that God will speak to him out of the mouth of a heathen king. ***“Josiah hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo. . . And the archers shot at king Josiah”***. (II Chr. 35:22-24) The Bible says expressly that Pharaoh Necho

spoke the words of God. Here we see King Josiah, in many ways greater than his father king David, die, because he did not obey the voice of the Lord. Josiah was a man after God's own heart, greatly beloved of the Lord. Nevertheless, he dies an ignominious death, contrary to God's will.

The two incidents related above show us clearly the terrible self-inflicted consequences of not obeying the voice of the Lord. So what has this to do with the Holocaust?

Already at the end of the 18th century the Lord placed into the heart of Napoleon a thought that Palestine should be a refuge for the Jewish people. Who knows what the Lord would have done for Napoleon if he had earnestly sought to implement this thought or if the Jewish people had been ready and willing to move. At the end of the 19th century, the Lord raised up Theodore Hertzl to call the Jewish people back to Israel. A little later, the Lord raised up Jabotinsky to do the same thing. The Lord also raised up many other people who cried out to the Jewish people that they should return to the "Land of Israel" or Palestine as it was then known. However, the people did not hear the voice of God out of the mouths of these people and so were unable to make use of the escape route that the Lord had prepared for them. What followed were the terrible consequences of not hearing the voice of God; the voice of a compassionate God, who hates death and destruction, but who has given man the freedom of choice. It is man, (both Jew and Gentile), in his lunacy, who causes death and destruction by refusing to listen to the voice of a loving God.